27 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(*Presented to Lok Sabha on* 16 *March,* 2016)

सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

***March*, 2016/*Phalguna*, 1937 (*Saka*)**

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(*Presented to Lok Sabha on* 30 *March,* 2016)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2016/*Phalguna,* 1937 (*Saka*)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2014-2015)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
7. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
8. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
9. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
10. Shri C.R. Patil
11. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
12. Shri Tasleem Uddin
13. Shri K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar

**15. Shri Tariq Anwar

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri R.S. Kambo	—	*Joint Secretary*
2.	Shri U.B.S. Negi	—	*Director*
3.	Shri T.S. Rangarajan	—	*Additional Director*
4.	Shri Kulvinder Singh	—	*Committee Officer*

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* The Committee has been constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2014 *vide* para No. 633 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 02 September, 2014.

** Nominated to the Committee *vide* Para No. 1281 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 05 February, 2015.

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(2015-2016)

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2.	Shri S.C. Chaudhary	—	*Director*
3.	Shri T.S. Rangarajan	—	*Additional Director*
4.	Shri S.L. Singh	—	*Deputy Secretary*
5.	Shri Rajesh Mohan	—	*Committee Officer*

* The Committee has been constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2015 *vide* para No. 2348 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 31 August, 2015.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2014-2015) at their sitting held on 06 May, 2015 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding pending Assurances upto the 9th Session of 15th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 15 March, 2016, the Committee (2015-16) considered and adopted their Twenty Seventh Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this Report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
15 *March,* 2016
25 *Phalguna*, 1937 *(Saka)*

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT

I. Introductory

1. The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinizes the Assurances, promises, undertakings etc., given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/Departments of Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfilment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/Department is unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department is bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances heve been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/ Departments for dealing with assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the ibid decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2015-2016) invited representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarifications with respect to delay in implementation of the pending Assurances made during the period from 12th Session of 13th Lok Sabha to 9th Session of 15th Lok Sabha.The Committee examined the following 19 Assurances during oral evidence held on 06 May, 2015:—

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	SQ No. 222 06.03.2003	More Powers to Press Council of India (Appendix-I)
2.	SQ No. 214 07.08.2016	Obscenity and vulgarity in Newspapers (Appendix-II)

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
3.	USQ No. 386 27.07.2010	Paid News (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 406 27.07.2010	Amendment in Cinematography Act. (Appendix-V)
5.	USQ No. 214 09.11.2010	Paid News (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 27 22.02.2011	Grievances of Prasar Bharti Employees (Appendix-VI)
7.	SQ No. 87 01.03.2011	Empowering the Press Council of India (Appendix-VII)
8.	SQ No. 164 08.03.2011 (Shri Chandrakant Bahuurao Khaire M.P.)	Amendment in Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (Appendix-IX)
9.	USQ No. 349 02.08.2011	Paid News (Appendix-IX)
10.	USQ No. 1591 09.08.2011	DAVP Advertisement Policy (Appendix-X)
11.	USQ No. 3301 23.08.2011	Mechanism to Regulate TV Content (Appendix-XI)
12.	USQ No. 109 22.11.2011	Amendment in PCI Act (Appendix-XII)
13.	SQ No. 103 29.11.2011	Functioning of Prasar Bharati (Appendix-XIII)
14.	USQ No. 1305 29.11.2011	Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill (Appendix-XIV)
15.	USQ No. 1356 29.11.2011	University Status to FTII & SRFTI (Appendix-XV)
16.	USQ No. 3162 13.12.2011	Re-Constitution of PCI (Appendix-XVI)
17.	USQ No. 3186 13.12.2011	Vacancies in TV/Radio Stations (Appendix-XVII)
18.	SQ No. 363 20.12.2011 (Shri Ganesh Singh M.P.)	Publication of Foreign News Magazines (Appendix-XVIII)
19.	USQ No. 4297 20.12.2011	Irregularities in DD Film Section (Appendix-XIX)

5. Subsequently, the Assurance mentioned at Sl. No. 8 has since been implemented on 13.03.2013.

6. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfilment, dropping/deletion an extension, the procedure for fulfilment etc. besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XX.

Observations/Recommendations

7. The Committee are perturbed that out of 19 pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Technology, one Assurance at Sl. No. 1 is pending for more than 12 years since March 2003 while one more Assurance at Sl. No. 2 is pending for more than 9 years. Further, 3 Assurances from Sl. Nos 3 to 5 are pending for more than 5 years and another 13 Assurances are pending for around 4 to 5 years. The inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurances in such a large number of cases clearly indicates that not only little attention is being paid by the Ministry in the matter of implementation of Assurances but also the extant mechanism put in place by them for the purpose is far from effective. The Committee feel that the purpose, utility and relevance of Assurances are lost if there is an inordinate delay in their implementation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the existing mechanism/system should be overhauled and streamlined so as to ensure timely implementation of Assurances. The Committee also observe that another major cause of the inordinate delay in the implementation of the Assurances is the lack of coordination between the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Committee, therefore, would like the Ministry to adopt a pro-active approach and scale up the level of coordination with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for expeditious implementation of all the pending Assurances.

8. The Committee note that there is a structural mechanism to review pending Assurances with different Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Committee feel that this mechanism has become more ceremonial in nature rather than resolving the contentious issues and go getting. The Committee recommend that the working of this mechanism be revisited by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and corrective steps taken in the matter. The Committee also desire that such meeting be held at the level of at least Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary or Minutes of such review meeting be furnished to them, for their consideration.

II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

9. Some of the Important Assurances Critically Scrutinized by the Committee are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Empowering the Press Council of India

(i) SQ No. 222 dated 06 March, 2003, regarding "More Powers to Press Council of India" and reply thereto reproduced at Appendix-I; and

(ii) SQ No. 87 dated 01 March, 2011 regarding "Empowering The Press Council of India" and reply thereto reproduced at Appendix-VII; and

(iii) USQ No. 3162 dated 13 December, 2011 regarding "Re-constitution of PCI" and reply thereto reproduced at Appendix-XVI.

10. In reply to USQ No. 222 dated 06.03.2003, it was stated that the Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Press Council of India. The Council is in the nature of a self regulatory body of the press built on norms of journalistic conduct. A proposal to amend the Press Council Act of 1978 has been received from the Press Council which is under examination. In response to SQ No. 87 dated 01.03.2011, it was assured that the proposed amendments to the Press Council Act are under consideration of the Government and will be drafted carefully after wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media. Further, in reply to USQ No. 3162 dated 13.12.2011, it was stated that the Chairman, Press Council of India (PCI) has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister proposing to bring electronic media under the jurisdiction of PCI and to rename it as Media Council. Subsequently, PCI in its meeting held on 17.11.2011 has decided to hold further debate on the proposal of Chairman, PCI.

11. In their Status Note, the Ministry explained the position as under:

"The issue of empowerment of the PCI has been raised time and again by way of Parliament questions, discussion in the consultative committees attached with the Ministry and other fora. The proposal for empowerment of the PCI by way of amendment in the Press Council Act has been under consideration since 1999.

PCI released its "Report on Paid News" on 30.07.2010 wherein one of the major recommendations is to amend the Press Council Act to bring electronic media under the jurisdiction of the PCI and also to empower PCI.

Meanwhile, the Chairman, PCI also wrote to the former Prime Minister and proposed that the Press Council Act may be amended to bring electronic media under the jurisdiction of PCI and PCI may be further empowered to regulate media. As per the directions from PMO, the proposal of Chairman, PCI was placed before the GoM on Paid News. The issues were deliberated upon by the GoM. However, the recommendations of the GoM could not be finalized. Later, it was decided that the GoM on Paid News would not be re-constituted and the Ministry of Law & Justice may be requested to examine the following issues and submit a Report to M/o I & B:

i. Representation of People (RP) Act, 1951 be amended to make incidence of Paid News a punishable electoral malpractice.

ii. The PCI must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of Paid News and give final judgment in the matter.

With regard to empowerment of the PCI by way of amendment in the Press Council Act, M/o Law & Justice has stated that the administration of the Press Council Act comes under the ambit of this Ministry. They have also mentioned that any view on the subject can be given only after finalization of the proposal regarding making incidence of Paid News a punishable electoral offence.

Besides, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has also examined the issues of Paid News and the Committee has made certain recommendations in its 47th Report. One of its major recommendation is that 'There should be a statutory body, *viz*. Media Council having eminent persons as its members to look into all media contents both from print and electronic media with powers to take strong action against the defaulters.'

Thereafter, it has been decided to seek the views of the present Chairman, PCI on its proposal 'Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978' The same are still awaited from them."

12. During oral evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that the above views of the Chairman, PCI were sought on 19.01.2015. On being enquired what happended before this date, he deposed as under:

"Before that, Shri Katju was the President, PCI. He told that discussions were going on for giving this right to us. Meanwhile, PCI has been newly constituted and on the directions of the Hon'ble Minister, it has been decided to seek views of the new Chairman, PCI since it is a sensitive issue."

13. When the Committee pointed out that the press required more powers than what were being conferred by the Press Council Act, 1978, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting replied as under:

"The powers regarding regulation of the print media are with the Press Council of India. The Press want more powers including the powers of electronic media."

14. Enquired about the authority responsible for providing rights to electronic media, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting explained the position as under:

"The electronic media is having a self regulatory mechanism in the forms of Indian Broadcasting Foundation, News Broadcasting Authority and Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)."

15. He further added:

"The Government has a Programme Advertising Code in the Cable Network Television Regulation Act under which the Government has powers that in case any objectionable content pertaining to obscenity is relayed than suitable action may be taken."

16. The Committee pointed out that some conclusion should have taken place at least since the Assurance has been pending since 2003 and enquired about the action taken by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. The representative of the Ministry stated as under:

"Sir, we conducted a review meeting in January, 2015."

17. To a specific query as to how many review meetings had been conducted since 2003, he replied as under:

"Sir, each time we sought extension of time from you."

Observations/Recommendations

18. The Committee are dismayed that an Assurance given in March, 2003 and subsequently reviewed twice in March, 2011 and December, 2011 regarding empowerment of the Press Council of India still remains unfulfilled despite the fact that the issue is of paramount importance and has been engaging the attention of both the citizens and the Government. The Ministry themselves admitted that the proposal for empowerment of the Council of India by way of amendment to the Press Council Act has been under consideration since 1999 but no concerted efforts have been made to materialize it by all concerned including the Group of Ministers. The best the Ministry could do was seeking the views of the present chairman, PCI on the proposal regarding Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 that too only in January, 2015 *i.e.* more than 11 years after giving the Assurance. This smacks of certain deliberate attempts by vested interests to thwart the proposal. Worse, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs conducted only a review meeting in this regard in January, 2015 and remained a mute spectator. The Committee note that one of the main issues with regard to media regulations is the question of the nature of Regulatory Authority which led to proposals for a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India. At present, the law applicable to Broadcast media is the Cable TV networks (Regulations Act, 1995). The Act brought into force the Programme Code and the Advertising Code, which prohibit transmission of any programme and advertisement not in compliance with the codes. However, there is an absence of a proper Regulatory Authority under the Act for electronic media even though there exists multiplicity of self regulatory bodies like News Broadcasting Standard Authority (NBSA), News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Indian Broadcasting Foundation, News Broadcasting Authority and Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC). This void is felt with the continuing experience of unethical telecast of various programmes by a section of private television channels which fail to ensure proper self regulation. In this context, as print media is governed by the Press Council Act, 1978 through the Press Council of India, the idea of

empowering the PCI by bringing electronic media within the ambit of its regulatory framework gains significance. The Committee are of the strong view that since electronic media plays a significant role in moulding public opinion and behaviour, it is imperative that such a strong tool of democracy adheres to the larger ethical values of independence and impartiality. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Assurance be fulfilled forthwith and the Implementation Report thereof laid on the Table of the House without any further delay.

B. Paid News

(i) USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010 regarding Paid News (Appendix - III)

(ii) USQ No. 2014 dated 09.11.2010 regarding Paid News (Appendix - V)

(iii) USQ No. 349 dated 02.08.2011 regarding Paid News (Appendix - IX)

19. In reply to USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010, it was stated that the phenomenon of Paid News could cause a double jeopardy to the democracy through influence on the press functioning as also on the free and fair election process. Further, there have been a number of media reports that sections of electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing and broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations, what is essentially advertisement disguised as news. The Press Council of India (PCI) is an autonomous body set up under Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of Press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India. To check the menace of Paid News, it was assured that the Government will take appropriate action on receiving the recommendations of the Press Council of India. In reply to USQ No. 214 dated 09.11.2010, an Assurance was made that recommendations of the Report given by Press Council of India on Paid News are under consideration. Further, in reply to USQ No. 349 dated 02.08.2011, an Assurance was made that the proposal to equip the Press Council of India with necessary powers to control the menace of Paid News is under consideration.

20. On the status of the Assurances, the Ministry explained the position in a Note as under:

> "Press Council of India (PCI) released its 'Report on Paid News' on 30th July, 2010 wherein one of the major recommendations is to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for making incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.
>
> The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the PIC's Report on Paid News and to give views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of paid news.The issues were deliberated upon by the GoM, however, the recommendations of the GoM could not be finalized.
>
> Later, it was decided that the GoM on Paid News would not be re-constituted and M/o Law and Justice may be requested to examine the following issues and submit report to the M/o I&B:

(i) Representation of People (RP) Act, 1951 be amended to make incidence of Paid News a punishable electoral malpractice.

(ii) The PCI must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of paid news and give final judgement in the matter.

Ministry of Law and Justice has informed that the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety including the issue of paid news has been referred to Law Commission of India for considerations and to suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law. The Report of the Law Commission is still awaited.

Besides, the Election Commission has also initiated measures to check incidents of election time paid news. The Commission has issued instructions to Chief Electoral Officers of all States for constituting the District level and State level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) for scrutiny of paid news. In addition, the Election Commission has also set up a special cell at the Headquarter to receive and deal with the complaints of paid news.

The Standing Committee on Information Technology has also examined the issue of Paid News in consultation with all stakeholders and has made some recommendations in its Report submitted to both Houses of Parliament. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on 'Press and Registration of Books and Publications Bill', inclusion of provisions under clause 20 of the revised draft Bill to check the incidents of paid news, is also being considered."

21. On being enquired during evidence as to whether there is no law regarding Paid News, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting replied in the affirmative.

22. When the Committee asked whether any law on Paid News would be made, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting deposed during evidence as under:

"Sir, we have made it and we have got it vetted by Law Department. After that, the Standing Committee has also accepted it. However, we got many representations from media houses pleading that it should not be done in haste."

23. Enquired whether the Ministry were under pressure from the media houses, the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting replied in the negative.

24. The Committee then specifically asked as to what has been preventing the Ministry from finalizing and implementing the law over a period of time. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting submitted that the matter would be brought before Parliament.

25. To a pointed query as to whether paid news is a crime, the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted during evidence as under:

"Yes Indeed, Sir."

26. However, he added:

"Sir, this cannot be termed as illegal under law at present."

27. Then the Committee were desirous to know as to why Election Commission considers it as an offence. To this, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting replied as under:

"Sir, Election Commission has its own Representation of Peoples Act."

Observations/Recommendations

28. The Committee note that three Assurances regarding Paid News were given in reply to USQ No. 386 dated 27.07.2010, USQ No. 214 dated 09.11.2010 and USQ No. 349 dated 02.08.2011 to equip the Press Council of India with necessary powers on their own recommendations so as to check the menace of Paid News. The Committee are, however, distressed to note that none of the Assurances has been fulfilled as on date indicating that no serious efforts have been made by the Ministry to implement them even after the receipt of the recommendations of the Press Council of India in July 2010, for amending the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice. The Ministry did not take any concrete action except for constituting a Group of Ministers to examine the recommendations of the Council which subsequently could not finalise any recommendations and proved to be a wasteful exercise. Later, the matter was referred to the Law Commission of India whose Report is still awaited. The Committee feel that the growing menace of paid news which in reality is disguised advertisement in the form of news published/ broadcast/telecast grossly in favour of a particular entity especially political parties misleads the citizens, erodes moral values and weakens the pillars of democracy. Thus, this offence is nothing less than an organised crime which is first spreading with the multi proliferation of both print and electronic media nowadays. The absence of a law in this regard would only worsen the matter in future. Ironically, it seems that the Ministry could not take prompt action in the matter due to stiff opposition from media houses. This is indicative of collusion between the officials of the Ministry and media houses and hence not acceptable in a country which boasts itself as the largest democracy in the world. Rather, the Government needs to do something bold and innovative to make the electoral process fairer and ensure robust democracy in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should vigorously pursue the matter with all concerned so that the requisite law for preventing the menace of Paid News is expeditiously enforced and the Assurances fulfilled without any further delay.

C. Prasar Bharati

(i) USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 regarding Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees

(ii) SQ No. 103 dated 29.11.2011 (Supplementary by Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar, M.P.) regarding Functioning of Prasar Bharati

29. In reply to USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011, it was stated that the processing of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati are at various stages in the Government. In reply to SQ No. 103 dated 29.11.2011, it was *inter-alia* stated that the Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati. While informing that amendments to Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act have been approved by the Cabinet as recommended by the GoM, the Ministry assured that in respect of other important recommendations of GoM, a proposal seeking of approval of Cabinet was under inter-Ministerial consultation. The Ministry further stated that a proposal for constitution of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) was under inter-Ministerial constitution.

30. The Ministry in their Status Report apprised the position regarding implementation of the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 as under:

> "In view of the fact that the Ministry has made substantial progress in implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) and that the GoM on Prasar Bharati stands abolished at present, a proposal to request Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha), for deletion/ dropping of the Assurance is under submission for approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State."

31. As informed by the Ministry, the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers is as follows:

Sl. No.	Recommendations (in brief)	Status of implementation of recommendations of GoM
1.	GoM recommended a package for Financial restructuring and funding pattern of Prasar Bharati	"Based on the recommendations of GoM, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting moved a Cabinet Note for financial restructuring and funding pattern of Prasar Bharati. The Cabinet considered the proposal in its meeting dated 14.09.2012 and approved the proposal. In order to implement the proposals approved by the Cabinet on 14.09.2012, the matter, with the approval of Secretary (I&B), has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance for obtaining approval of Parliament through Supplementary Demands for Grants of Ministry of Finance in respect of the following: i. Conversion of a sum of Rs. 5684.34 crore towards loan-in-perpetuity and capital loan into grants-in-aids for the period from 01.04.2000 to 31.03.2010;

Sl. No.	Recommendations (in brief)	Status of implementation of recommendations of GoM
		ii. Waiver of an amount of Rs. 4082.88 crore towards interest on loan-in-perpetuity, interest on capital loan and penal interest for the period from 01.4.2000 to 31.03.2010; and iii. Waiver of a sum of Rs. 1349.54 crore towards accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges accrued to Prasar Bharati up to 31.03.2011. The Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs *vide* its communication dated 20.02.2015 has stated that the above cited proposals have been approved by Hon'ble Minister of Finance and the proposals may be put up through Supplementary Demands for Grants of obtaining the approval of Parliament.
2.	Restoration of Section 22 of the Prasar Bharati Act:— GoM recommended that the objections raised by Ministry of Finance may be incorporated in the Cabinet Note and the Cabinet could take a final view in this regard	This recommendation has been clubbed with the recommendation at Sl. No. (6).
3.	Status of Indian Information Service (IIS) and other Central service officers working in Prasar Bharati and related issues	For incorporating the recommendations of GoM, Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, has been amended whereby an enabling provision has been made for the officers of Indian Information Service, Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Stenographers Services etc., belonging to the cadres outside Prasar Bharati for their posting in Prasar Bharati. As per this amendment, enforced with effect from 08.03.2012, the terms and conditions of the service and the posts of these officers and employees are to be determined by the Central Government through rules under Section 32(f) and 32(ff) of the Act, respectively. The draft rules under section 32(f) are under inter-Ministerial consultation. The draft rules under

Sl. No.	Recommendations (in brief)	Status of implementation of recommendations of GoM
		Section 32(ff) regarding posts pertaining to the cadres of Indian Information Service, Central Secretariat Services etc. are yet to be formulated by Prasar Bharati.
4.	Filling up of essential category of Posts in AIR and Doordarshan	The approval of the Government for filling up of 3067 posts, falling under the essential categories, has been communicated to Prasar Bharati. Special one time dispensation was obtained to recruit through Staff Selection Commission. Prasar Bharati has informed that Staff Selection Commission has recommended 2367 candidates.
5.	Other employees related issues including demands of NFADE, ADASA and other staff associations	The GoM has been abolished before making final recommendations on this issue.
6.	Comprehensive amendments, to Prasar Bharati Act, 1990	A draft Cabinet Note for amendment of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 was circulated for inter-Ministerial consultations to the Ministries and Departments concerned. It was felt that there was requirement to further assess and analyse the proposal made in the draft Cabinet Note, therefore, the Ministry has withdrawn the said draft Cabinet Note.

32. In this regard, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, deposed before the Committee during evidence as under:

> "The issue was regarding implementation of the recommendations of GoM. However GoM has been abolished. So, the requirement of fulfilling the Assurance does not longer exist."

33. To this, the Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati supplemented as under:

> "When Prasar Bharati was established in 1997, 3-4 issues came up. Prasar Bharati is an authority, not a profit making company but it was named as corporation. This led to resentment among the employees who thought 'We are Government Employees. Why we are sent to a company? We will not get pensions etc.' Their problem is that in the last 20 years Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board was to take the place of UPSC but that has not happened till now. There are many reasons for that. If this Board is to be set up, we want to call it Prasar Bharati Services Board instead of Prasar Bharati Recruitment

Board so that it can, in place of UPSC, constitute Departmental Promotion Committee for those Prasar Bharati employees who have not been getting promotion since the last 20-25 years."

34. He further added as under:

"Government of India has taken in about 48,000 persons by 1977 and handed them over to Prasar Bharati telling us to take care of them and their salary would be given by the Government. Whenever the Government recruits any employee, the rule is that the employee is to be given salary till retirement. In this case, the Government told us to take care of them. The Government of India paid their salary for five years from the Pay and Accounts Office in Shastri Bhawan. Afterwards, this duty had been entrusted to us. The employees were asking whether they should work 10 to 5 or 11 to 4. Prasar Bharati is being made a 24x7 organisation. At one stage, it could keep broadcasting by working for 10 to 5 or by working 2-4 hours extra. But now that we have come to competitive era, things will not go like this.Prasar Bharati wants to bring them to this broadcasting era. However, they are protected Government servants. This has created lots of tension for us. They told us, 'ok, leave it, now on we don't want to work in Prasar Bharati, we want to go back to the Government'. This is the problem. Now, this problem has subsided. They were dreaming that they would be going back to the Government.

35. On being enquired about the step taken by the Government to resolve the problem the Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati replied during evidence as under:

"The biggest problem is the matter of promotion, UPSC has told that it would not set up promotion committee. This is not possible for us. This problem is only because of promotion. We have accepted that the Ministry will set up the DPC".

36. He further added as under:

"This matter has gone to court many times. The court has directed th Prasar Bharati not to involve UPSC and SSC in the matter and form the promotion Committee urgently on its own. Through a Board resolution, we appointed the member Finance, Retired Secretary as the Chairman of the DPC. In this move, we will make the candidates successful. We will continue to use this model in future because this is a judicial matter."

37. He also stated as under:

"Sir, we will take care of it."

38. As regards the position of implementation of the Assurance given in reply to SQ No. 103 dated 29.11.2011, the Ministry stated in their Status Note as under:

"Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati, Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 14.09.2012 has approved financial structuring of Prasar Bharati in order to improve overall financial management of the organization. The long standing issue regarding status of

employees working in Prasar Bharati has been settled by amending Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, as per GoM recommendations.

The recommendations of the GoM regarding setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) has been taken up by the Ministry for implementation. Draft Rules for creation of PBRB have been finalized. A draft Cabinet Note for creation of posts of Chairperson and Members of PBRB was initially circulated for Inter-Ministerial consultation. Prasar Bharati meanwhile sent a revised proposal for setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment and Services Board (PBRSB) by giving additional mandate for setting norms of induction of media professionals, creative professionals, contractual, etc., consultation on framing of Recruitment Regulations and service conditions of PB employees, cadre review/cadre restructuring, and imposition of penalties on the employees, etc. Prasar Bharati has proposed for enhancement of the levels of the Chairperson and the Members of PBRSB at the levels of Secretary, Additional Secretary respectively. Prasar Bharati has also proposed for retention of retired employees as Chairperson and Members of PBRSB. Since the levels of Chairperson and Members of PBRB (at AS and JS levels respectively) were decided following concurrence of Department of Expenditure (DoE), PB's new proposal is again required to be referred for concurrence of DoE. Department of Personnel and Training had conveyed the instructions of ACC that approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is required for allowing appointment or continuation beyond the normal superannuation age in any Recruitment Rule. Prasar Bharati has requested to send a firm proposal accordingly. Therefore, it may take some more time to set up PBRSB."

39. When the issue was taken up by the Committee during evidence, the Secretary, Implementation and Broadcasting deposed as under:

"We will submit a report on this. The issue is mainly about setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board. A lot of discussion is going on and enough advanced action has been done regarding what type of members would be there and how they will be elected..... This is a very complex issue and lots of changes have taken place in it."

40. The Committee then specifically enquired about the problems faced by the Ministry in fulfilling the Assurance when the Committee has been granting extension of time for the purpose periodically. The Secretary, Information and Broadcasting replied during evidence as under:

"Initially, it was proposed that the Chairman of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board should be and Additional Secretary level officer with two members of Joint Secretary level officers and 45 people below them. The Secretariat is to be set up in this manner. This proposal was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office through a Cabinet Note but it came back saying, 'what is the need of it? This is a onetime recruitment. If it is done, such a big Secretariat will be created, so you may please consult others also'."

41. To this, the Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati supplemented as under:

"Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board exist when it recruits employees. That has been stopped now and the number of employees has gone down from 48,000 to 30,000. Permission for recruiting 3,000 new employees has been given. What I meant is UPSC's duty is not only recruitment, it is a service commission. The words 'Recruitment Board' have been used, it is not the right words. Instead, the words 'Service Board' should have been used. Alongwith these 30,000 employees, I have 20,000 contractual and professional employees. People questioned as to how they were taken in. It would have been right if they were recruited through this Service Board."

42. He further added as under-

"The question is when we use the word, 'Recruitment' people say remove it. This must be 'Services' and there should be clarity about it."

Observations/ Recommendations

43. The Committee note that the two Assurances regarding 'Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees' and 'Functioning of Prasar Bharati' were given in reply to USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 and SQ No. 103 dated 29.11.2011 respectively in order to streamline the issue of recruitment and service conditions of employees working in the corporation. The Committee are, however, deeply distressed to find that none of the Assurances has been fulfilled as on date despite the efforts taken by the Ministry. In the first case, the Assurance was regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati and the Ministry submitted that since the GoM has been abolished, the requirement of fulfilling the Assurance does not exist anymore. The Committee cannot accept this contention since long pending issues regarding recruitment and service conditions of employees of Prasar Bharati are yet to be resolved. The Committee understand that the issue is highly complex especially in view of the fact that it involves migration of about 48,000 normal Government employees to a newly formed corporation which has to face stiff competition from private and more professional electronic media houses in the competitive era with the matter of promotion being the biggest problem. Nevertheless, the Committee feel that this should not be an excuse for ignoring the Assurance. During evidence, the Committee have been informed that following judicial intervention in the matter, Prasar Bharati has since constituted a Departmental Promotion Committee in this regard without involving UPSC and SSC. The Committee welcome this initiative and urge both the Ministry and Prasar Bharati to step up their efforts and find an amicable solution to other grievances/issues of Prasar Bharati Employees and in the process fulfil the Assurance without further delay and furnish a detailed report in this regard.

As regards, the second Assurance, the Committee are pleased to find that based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati, the Union Cabinet has approved financial structuring of Prasar Bharati in order to

improve overall financial management of the corporation. Further, the long standing issue regarding status of employees working in Prasar Bharati has been settled by amending Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 as per GoM recommendations. The Committee are, however, dismayed to find that the recommendation of the GoM regarding setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board(PBRB) has not yet been implemented despite taking up the matter for inter-Ministerial consultation and submitting a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office. The reasons for this failure are mainly complexities and controversies in such issues as composition and mandate of the Board, setting norms for induction of media professionals, creative professionals, contractual employees, framing of Recruitment Regulations and Service Conditions of Prasar Bharati employees, cadre review/cadre restructuring, imposition of penalties on the employees, etc. The Committee feel that in a socio- economically and geo-politically diverse and sensitive country as ours, Prasar Bharati has a crucial role to play in safeguarding the citizen's right to be informed freely, unbiasedly and objectively on all matters of public interest, national and international issues as well as in promoting national integration, ensuring social justice and empowerment as well as combating exploitation, inequality and such social evils as untouchability, dowry system, etc. besides strengthening the democratic values. Regulation of issues of recruitment, promotions and other matters concerning human resource development in Prasar Bharati is *sine-quo-non* for achieving this grand mission and vision for which the Corporation has been setup and the Ministry cannot neglect these issues or just shirk their responsibility in such a situation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that intense proactive efforts should be made at the highest level to ensure that all these issues are sorted out within a fixed time frame and the Assurance is fulfilled in letter and spirit at the earliest. The Committee would also like the Ministry to furnish a detail report in this regard.

D. Implementation Reports

44. As per the Statements of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Reports in respect of the assurances given in replies to the following SQs/USQs have since been laid on the Table of the House on the dates as mentioned against each:

Sl.No. 4	USQ No. 406 dated 27.07.2010*	2.03.2012
Sl.No. 8	SQ No. 164 dated 08.03.2011	13.03.2013

* Partly implemented.

NEW DELHI;
15 *March,* 2016
Phalguna 25, 1937*(Saka)*

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 222

ANSWERED ON 06.03.2003

More Powers to Press Council of India

*222. DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accused media of negative and vulgar portrayal of women and decided to provide more teeth to Press Council to take action against errant newspapers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that most of the newspapers are brazently splashing obscene photographs of nude women flouting all norms of decency;

(c) if so, whether the Press Council of India has sent proposal to expand and enhance its powers;

(d) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to see that the Press Council functions more effectively?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (R/o SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government is committed to uphold the freedom of the press. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up with the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council. The Council, which is in the nature of a self-regulatory body of the Press has built norms of journalistic conduct. A proposal to amend the Press Council Act of 1978 has been received from the Press Council, which is under examination.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 214

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2006

Obscenity and Vulgarity in Newspapers

*214. SHRI SITARAM SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the obscenity and vulgarity in mass media is increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also issued directions to check the increasing obscenity in the newspapers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide more penal powers to the Press Council to remedy the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 214 TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2006

(a) Instances of obscenity and vulgarity in media have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) No formal directions have been received from the Supreme Court.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) The proposal to provide more penal powers to the Press Council of India is under consideration in the Ministry.

APPENDIX III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 386

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2010

Paid News

386. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent phenomenon of paid news has assumed alarming proportion particularly as a serious electoral malpractice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to check this phenomenon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) & (b) There have been a number of media reports that sections of electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations, what is essentially advertisement disguised as news. This is commonly referred to as 'paid news'. This phenomenon of paid news could cause a double jeopardy to the democracy through influence on the press functioning as also on the free and fair election process.

(c) The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body set up under Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India, has constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the 'Paid News Syndrome'. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report for consideration of the full Council. In a special meeting of the Council held on 26.04.2010, the report of the Sub-Committee was considered and the Council decided to constitute a Drafting Committee to draft a report drawing upon the information and findings of the Sub-Committee. The Drafting Committee has been given a time frame of three months to finalize the Report and the Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of July, 2010.

The Government will take appropriate action on receiving the recommendations of the Press Council of India.

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 406

TO BE ANSWERED IN 27.07.2010

Amendment in Cinematography Act

406. SHRI ADHI SANKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Cinematography Act;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which such amendments are likely to be implemented;

(d) the number of appeals made before the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal against the decision of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);

(e) whether the CBFC proposes to employ additional manpower for its effective functioning; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed amendments contained in the draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to the concerned Ministries and their response is awaited. The proposal has not yet taken a concrete shape.

(c) After clearance by the Cabinet, the Cinematograph Bill would be introduced in Parliament and thereafter considered and passed by the Parliament, after which it would be implemented.

(d) As per records of the Tribunal, 69 appeals have been received since 01.01.2001.

(e) & (f) Presently, there is no proposal to employ additional manpower in CBFC.

APPENDIX V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 214

ANSWERED ON 09.11.2010

Paid News

214. SHRI L. RAJA GPOPAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Press Council of India (PCI) to look into the issue of Paid News has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the major findings and recommendations made in the said report;

(c) whether the Government has initiated consultations with the Press Council of India (PCI), the Election Commission and the other stakeholders in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement such recommendations of the Committee?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Press Council of India (PCI) constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the issue of 'Paid News' and to collect evidence from stakeholders including Election Commission of India.

(b) The PCI, drawing upon the information and findings of the Sub-Committee's report has released its 'Report on Paid News' on 30th July, 2010. The major recommendations made in the Report are given below—

- Representation of the People Act, 1951, be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.
- The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of 'paid news' and give final judgement in the matter.

- Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview, and
- Press Council of India should be reconstituted to include representatives from electronic and other media.

(c) & (d) The recommendations of the report are under consideration.

APPENDIX VI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 27

ANSWERED ON 22.02.2011

Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees

27. SHRI AHIR VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MAADAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Prasar Bharati (PB) have observed country wide strike in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the details of grievances and demands of the said employees and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to redress the grievances amicably;

(c) whether the Government proposes to repeal the PB Act, 1990 in view of the requests received in this regard;

(d) if so, the objections raised against the said act;

(e) whether the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharti constituted in the recent past have been cleared by the government; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) Yes sir, the employees of Prasar Bharati represented by the National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) went on 48 hours of boycott of duties from 23rd November, 2010 to 25th November, 2010.

(b) The strike call given by National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees Association (NFADE) representing about 22,000 employees of Prasar Bharati resulted in disruption of services of All India Radio and Doordarshan across the country. Notice for another agitation from 13th to 16th December, 2010 followed by a call for indefinite strike was also given by the association. The employees demanded repeal of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. Alternatively they demanded retaining assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with Government of India. A conciliation process was undertaken by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in this regard. During the course of negotiations with the

federation, they demanded that a committee may be constituted in the Ministry with 5 members from the NFADE to discuss comprehensive amendments to the Prasar Bharati Act. In response, the Ministry conveyed that while it did not consider it necessary to constitute a committee in the Ministry, it was agreeable to give due consideration to the suggestions and views from different stakeholders including different associations and also have discussions with representatives of NFADE on the suggestions made by them. The strike call was withdrawan on the assurance of the Ministry and the Prasar Bharati.

(c) There is no proposal before the government to repeal the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 as demanded by the NFADE. However, the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (PB) has mandated the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider such amendments in the Act as are necessary in the light of the developments subsequent to the operationalisation of the Act in 1997 and bring it before the GOM for consideration.

(d) The demand of the federation was to retain the assets and employees of AIR and Doordarshan with the Government.

(e) & (f) The processing of the recommendations of GOM are at various stages in the government.

Appendix VII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 87

ANSWERED ON 01.03.2011

Empowering the Press Council of India

*87. SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK:
SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the alleged unethical practices being resorted to by some section of the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from the PCI seeking amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 for arming it with more powers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 87 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.03.2011 REGARDING EMPOWERING THE PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA: (a) to (f) There have been a number of media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations or corporate entities for what is essentially "advertisement" disguised as "news". This has been commonly referred to as the "paid news".

The Government, in pursuance of the objective of preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers in India and to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press, has set up Press Council of India (PCI) - an autonomous body under the Press Council Act, 1978. Accordingly,

PCI, in order to prevail upon the Press to practice self-regulation, have formed Norms of Journalistic Conduct under section 13(2)(b) of the Act. These norms cover general principles and ethics of journalism as well as guidelines on specific issues such as financial journalism, election reporting etc.

The complaints of contents in print media, which are violative of the ethics of journalistic practice, public taste or professional conduct are adjudicated by PCI under section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978. The Council, after holding an inquiry in accordance with Press Council (Procedure of Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, news agency, journalist or editor, as the case may be. The details of the complaints received by PCI regarding 'Paid News' along with the status of action taken thereon in annexed.

Press Council of India, having observed that the powers provided under Press Council Act, 1978 are not adequate for effective implementation of its directives, has proposed amendments in the Press Council Act, 1978. The proposed amendments intend to arm the Council with more powers. The proposed amendments to the Press Council Act are under consideration of the Government and will be drafted carefully after wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.

Complaints received by the Press Council of India on Paid News during 2009-10

Sl.No.	File No.	Complainant	Respondent	Subject	Action Taken/Status
1.	14/75/09-10	Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Member (Lok Sabha), Aavgarh House, Dampiar Nagar, Mathura (U.P.)	The Editor, Dainik Jagran, Mathura (U.P.)	Publication of favourable news item in favour of his rival candidate	Closed by Council on 26.4.2010 for non-pursuance
2.	14/178/09-10	Shri Rakesh Srivastava "Nyayik" M.M. 22, Vikas Pradhikaran Colony, Shivpur, Varanasi-221 003-(U.P.)	The Editor, Hindustan	Publication of news in favour of BSP candidate during the election by taking money from him.	Closed by Council on 31.8.2010 for non-pursuance
3.	14/179/09-10	Shri Rampravesh Sharma @ Shankar, J.D.U. Candidate, 36, Jahanabad Lok Sabha, Bihar	The Editor, Hindustan, Patna	Publication of news in favour of contesting candidate by taking money	Closed by Council on 3.6.2010 for non-pursuance
4.	14/180/09-10	Shri Lawan Thakur, Chairman, RTI Bureau, 88/6, Samkheter, Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)	The Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh	Publication of news in favour of candidate by taking money	Closed by Council on 26.4.2010 for non-pursuance
5.	14/183/09-10	Shri Ram Iqbal Singh, Ex-MLA, BJP, 70, Ghosi Lok Sabha Constituency, Mau (U.P.)	The Editor, Dainik Jagran	Publication of news in favour of a candidate by taking money	Closed by Council on 23.4.2010 for non-pursuance

Sl.No.	File No.	Complainant	Respondent	Subject	Action Taken/Status
6.	14/184/09-10	Shri Randeep Thakur, 4, LIG Barra-2, Kanpur (U.P.).	The Editor, Dainik Jagran	Publication of news/advertisements in favour of a candidate by selling news column.	Closed by Council on 24.8.2010 for non-pursuance
7-8.	14/185-186/09-10	Shri Lion S. Gopalan, 43, Periyar Nagar, Sengunthapuram Post, Karur-639 002 (Tamil Nadu)	The Editor, (1) Dinamalar (2) The Hindu	Regarding violation of guidelines of press by highlighting the caste profile of the candidates as well as constituencies.	Closed by Council on 23.4.2010 for non-pursuance
9.	14/402/09-10	Shri Ramadhar Verma, Purani Basti, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	The Editor, Dainik Bhaskar Raipur	Publication of misleading advertisement in favour of a party during the election.	Closed by Council on 1.1.2010 for non-pursuance/lack of address
10-12.	14/407-409/09-10	Shri P.P. Kapoor, Haryana State Convenor, Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU), G.T. Road, Samalakha-132 101-03, Panipat (Haryana)	The Editors, 1. Dainik Bhaskar 2. Dainik Jagran 3. Punjab Kesari	Regarding publication of misleading news/article/advts. during Haryana Vidhan Sabha election.	Matter is ripe for listing before the Inquiry Committee of the Council.
13-16.	14/582-585/09-10	Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP),	The Editors, 1. Dinakaran 2. Tamil Murasu	Publishing election/campaign related news according	The matter has been adjudicated by the Council. Complaint

		83-3B, Arjun Nivas Apartment, 4th Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore-641 012 - Tamil Nadu	3. Daily Thanthi 4. Maalai Malar	to whims and fancies	dismissed
17.	14/318/09-10	Shri S.S. Aryan, State General Secretary, Indian Justice Party, Haryana, Ambala	Editor, Punjab Kesari	Regarding misleading the people	Matter is ripe for listing before the Inquiry Committee of the Council.
18.	14/219/10-11	Shri Rakesh Kumar Sharma, H.No. 143, Sector-13, Kurukshetra, Haryana	Editor, Dainik Jagram	Regarding manipulation and fraud with their shareholders and also publish news editorial/ advertisements by taking money from the candidates during Lok Sabha and legislative assembly elections	Closed on 6.9.2010 Outside the purview of the Council's charter.
19.	14/459/10-11	Shri Jai Singh Village & PS-Gajrola, Pilibhit (UP)	Amar Ujala	Regarding publication of false and defamatory news item with the motive to blackmail him during district Panchayati Election	Notice for comments was issued to the Editor, Amar Ujala on 15.12.2010.

APPENDIX VIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164

ANSWERED ON 08.03.11

Amendment in Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

*164. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended restructuring of cable service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposal from the Government of Maharashtra seeking amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 FOR ANSWER ON 08.03.11: (a) to (e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendation of "Restructuring of Cable TV Services" has given a comprehensive roadmap for restructuring cable TV networks in the country. It recommended that the present system of registration cable TV operators should be replaced by a licensing framework. It has also recommended a separate licensing provision for Multi System Operators (MSOs) with a view to recognize them as a distinct entity from cable TV operators. The proposed licensing framework for Local Cable Operators and MSOs covers eligibility criteria for obtaining LCO or MSO license. Service area, licensing authority, procedure for award of license, renewal process, migration procedure, complaint redressal mechanism, billing procedure, quality of service, etc. Detailed recommendations are available on the website of TRAI (*www.trai.in*). These recommendations are under the consideration of the Ministry. In its recommendations, TRAI has also proposed setting deadlines for full conversion of analogue cable operators to digital cable operators. However, TRAI in its subsequent

recommendations on "Implementation of Digital addressable Cable System in India" has recommended that the migration to digital addressable cable TV system be implemented with sunset date for Analogue Cable TV Services as 31st December, 2013, in four phases. The Ministry, while agreeing to the recommendations of TRAI, proposed a slightly modified timeline extending upto 31st March, 2015 in view of the enormity of the task. The TRAI in its response dated 23rd February, 2011 has recommended revised timelines for implementation of digital addressable cable TV system in India where the time frame for final phase has been extended upto 30th June, 2014. The Ministry is in the process of taking a final view in the matter.

The TRAI, in its recommendations on "Restructuring of Cable TV services" has also made recommendations for amendments to certain provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 some of which are similar to the proposal for amendment submitted by State Government of Maharashtra. As and when a decision is taken to put in place a licensing framework by amending the Cable Act, the issue raised by the State Government would also be taken into consideration.

श्री चंद्रकांत खैरे (औरंगाबाद): महोदया, जो भी केबल और डीटीएच सर्विसेज प्रोवाइडर होते हैं, उनकी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में और शहरी क्षेत्रों में मोनोपोली होती है। मैं तो यही कहूंगा कि दूरदर्शन अपना केन्द्र है, अपना टीवी सेंटर है। दूरदर्शन सिर्फ देहात में, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में तो दिखता ही है, लेकिन बाकी के केबल चैनल्स वहां नहीं दिखते हैं। वे जो दूरदर्शन के चैनल्स हैं, उसमें स्पोर्ट्स के और अन्य चैनल नहीं दिखते हैं।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के लोगों ने कहा कि हमें क्रिकेट देखना है। वे कहते हैं कि बाकी सभी क्षेत्रों में केबल चैनल्स हैं, लेकिन हमारे यहां ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में केबल वाले नहीं हैं, इसलिए दूरदर्शन पर आना चाहिए, यह उनकी डिमांड है। इसके लिए चैनल ऑपरेटर को कहा गया तो अगर हमें डिस्कवरी चाहिए, मराठी का चैनल चाहिए, मुम्बई, दिल्ली या कहीं देहात में चाहिए, तो ऑपरेटर इसके लिए ज्यादा डिमांड करते हैं। जैसे हमें लगता है कि 'सुदर्शन' चैनल देखना चाहिए, लेकिन सुदर्शन वाले कहते हैं कि बहुत ज्यादा पैसे आपको देने पड़ेंगे, इसका कोई नियम आधार आपने बनाया है क्या? इसी तरह से केबल टीवी वाले किसी से 250 रुपये महीना लेते हैं, किसी से 400 रुपये लेते हैं और किसी से 300 रुपये लेते हैं। इसके लिए क्या कोई नियम बनाया गया है, यही मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: महोदया, 1995 में केबल रेगुलेटरी एक्ट बना था। उसके तहत पूरे केबल नेटवर्क को गवर्न करने की बातें रखी गई हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि दूरदर्शन पर हर स्पोर्टिंग ईवैन्ट देखने की लोगों की अभिलाषा है, लेकिन कुछ नियम इसके लिए निर्धारित किये गये हैं कि जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर या अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के खेल हैं, जहां भारत भाग ले रहा है, वे दूरदर्शन पर दिखाए जाएंगे और दूरदर्शन जहां दूसरी जगह बिड करता है, वे चैनल केबल नेटवर्क पर दिखाए जाएंगे। हर स्पोर्टिंग ईवैन्ट में दूरदर्शन बिड नहीं करता, लेकिन जहां प्रसार भारती द्वारा तय किया जाए कि ये राष्ट्रीय खेल हैं और राष्ट्र उसमें भाग ले रहा है, तब ही दिखाए जाते हैं, हर खेल नहीं दिखाया जाता। 1995 का एक एक्ट है और 2008 में टैलीकॉम रैगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी ने बहुत से सुझाव और रिकमंडेशन्स दिये हैं इस रैगुलेटरी एक्ट में संशोधन लाने के लिए। उनमें कई ऐसे सुझाव हैं जिनको पूरा करने के लिए कुछ व्यवस्था बनाने की जरूरत है। हम इसी सिलसिले में आगे कदम ले रहे हैं। मुझे उम्मीद है कि हम बहुत जल्दी एक कंप्रिहैन्सिव केबल रेगुलेटरी एक्ट सदन के सामने लाएंगे।

श्री चंद्रकांत खैरे: माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने पूछा था कि महाराष्ट्र राज्य की सरकार ने संशोधन के लिए जो संबंधित प्रस्ताव भेजा है, आपने कहा कि जब कोई निर्णय लिया जाएगा तो उस समय राज्य सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए मुद्दों पर ध्यान भी रखा जाएगा। यह निर्णय कब लिया जाएगा? उसको आप कोई टाइमबांउड रूप में कोंगे?

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि 2008 में जो सुझाव ट्राई की तरफ से रखे गए हैं, उसमें महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा दिया हुआ सुझाव जो प्रिंसिपल तरीके से एंटरटेनमैंट टैक्स से संबंधित है कि केवल ऑपरेटर्स सबस्क्राइबर्स की सही सूची नहीं रखते। इसलिए उनसे पूरा एंटरटेनमैंट टैक्स वसूल करना संभव नहीं होता है। यह महाराष्ट्र सरकार की चिट्टी थी। अब मैं इसमें दो बातें कहना चाहती हूं। वित्त मंत्री ने अगले साल से जीएसटी का ऐलान किया है। उसमें एंटरटेनमैंट टैक्स सबस्यूम हो जाएगा लेकिन उसके अलावा 2008 में जो सुझाव ट्राई ने दिये थे, उसके बाद से इस क्षेत्र में बहुत ज्यादा तरक्की हुई है। 2010 से हम लोग डिजिटलाइजेशन की बात कर रहे हैं। जैसे मैंने पहले कहा कि कुछ ही समय में एक निर्धारित समय के अंतर्गत हम सदन के सामने पूरा डिजिटलाइजेशन का प्लान रख सकेंगे।

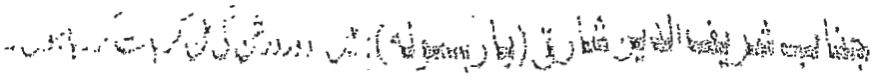
श्री शरीफुद्दीन शारिक: ऑनरेबल स्पीकर मैडम, मैं, ऑनरेबल मंत्री से गुजारिश करना चाहूंगा कि देखने में आया है और सब लोगों की आम राय है कि दूरदर्शन का मेयार गिर रहा है और गिर गया है। जितने भी प्राइवेट चैनल्स हैं, यह उनका मुकाबला नहीं कर सकता। दूसरी राय यह है कि इसके प्रोग्राम्स का मेयार प्राइवेट चैनल्स के बनिस्बत बहुत ही कमजोर होता है, साथ ही एक कारण शायद यह भी है कि वहां बहुत से मुलाजमीन की जगहें खाली हैं जिनको बड़ी देर से भरा नहीं गया है। अपने मजामीन के माहरीन प्रोफेशनल्स की बहुत कमी है। क्या इन बातों की जैरे नजर रखकर मंत्री जी सारे सूरते हाल का दोबार जायजा लेकर इसकी सूरत बहाल करलेंगे, वरना दूरदर्शन आखिरी दम ले रहा है। मैं कश्मीरी चैनल की बात कर रहा हूं, इतने घटिया प्रोग्राम होते हैं कि देखने का दिल ही नहीं करता हैं। क्या मंत्री जी इसकी तरफ तवज्जो देंगी?

جناب محمد شریف الدین شارق (بارہ بنکی): آنریبل اسپیکر میڈم، میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحبہ سے گزارش کرنا چاہوں گا کہ دیکھنے میں آیا ہے اور سب لوگوں کی عام رائے ہے کہ دوردرشن کا معیار گر رہا ہے اور گر گیا ہے۔ جتنے بھی پرائیویٹ چینلز ہیں ان کا مقابلہ نہیں کر سکتا ہے دوسری رائے یہ ہے کہ اس کے پروگرامس کا معیار پرائیویٹ چینلز کی بہ نسبت بہت ہی کمزور ہوتا ہے۔ ساتھ ہی ایک وجہ شاید یہ بھی ہے کہ وہاں بہت سے ملازمین کی جگہ خالی پڑی ہیں جن کو کافی وقت سے بھرا نہیں گیا ہے۔

اپنے مضامین کے ماہرین پروفیشنل کی بہت کمی ہے۔ کیا ان باتوں کو زیر نظر رکھ کر منسٹر صاحبہ جلد ساری صورت حال کا دوبارہ جائزہ لے کر اس کی صورت بحال کریں گے، ورنہ دوردرشن آخری دم لے رہا ہے۔ میں کشمیری چینل کی بات کر رہا ہوں اتنے گھٹیا پروگرام ہوتے ہیں کہ دیکھنے کا دل ہی نہیں کرتا ہے کیا منسٹر صاحبہ اس طرف توجہ دیں گی۔

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: महोदया, जो प्रश्न किया गया था, उसमें दूरदर्शन नहीं था। हमारा लगातार यह प्रयास रहता है कि दूरदर्शन को हम च्वाइस चैनल बना सकें। हाल ही मैं काफी तब्दीलियां हुई हैं, जिसमें प्रोग्रामिंग और कन्टैक्ट क्रिएशन में भी हम लोगों ने कुछ सफलता हासिल की है, लेकिन जहां तक डी॰डी॰ कश्मीर की बात है, मैं इस बात को मानती हूं.... *(व्यवधान)*

श्री शरीफुद्दीन शारिक: मैं दूरदर्शन को मिलकर बात कर रहा हूं। ...*(व्यवधान)*



अध्यक्ष महोदया: आपने काफी विस्तार से प्रश्न पूछा हैं आप बैठ जाइए और मंत्री जी को उत्तर देने दीजिए।

श्रीमती अम्बिका सेनी: महोदया, हम लोग दूरदर्शन में काफी परिवर्तन करने के प्रयास कर रहे हैं, लेकिन जहां तक इन्होंने डी॰डी॰ कश्मीर की बात की है, प्रधानमंत्री डॉ॰ मनमोहन सिंह ने कुछ साल पहले तकरीबन 300 करोड़ रुपए डी॰डी॰ कश्मीर के लिए दिए थे। मुझे खेद है कि हम उनको पहले अच्छी तरह से इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सके। लेकिन पिछले साल में हम लोगों ने विशेष प्रयास किया और माननीय सांसद से भी कई बार इस सिलसिले में बातचीत हुई है। बहुत से लोग पी॰आई॰एल॰ लेकर कोर्ट चले गए थे, धीरे-धीरे बात चलती करके, पिछले साल सितम्बर के महीने में ईद के दिन हम लोगों ने डी॰डी॰ कश्मीर नये फार्मेट में प्रस्तुत किया है और मुझे काफी चिट्ठियां वहां के मुख्यमंत्री और अन्य लोगों से मिली है कि डी॰डी॰ कश्मीर अब ठीक रास्ते पर चल रहा है। लेकिन उन्नति की अभी भी बहुत गुंजाइश है।

APPENDIX IX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 349

ANSWERED ON 02.08.2011

Paid News

349. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to equip the Press Council of India (PCI) with necessary powers to contain the menace of paid news in view of suggestions received from PCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of representations received by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Government to examine the said issue has submitted its reports to the Government;

(e) if so, the finding thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the GoM is likely to submit its report to the Government?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) to (f) Report and complaints have been received from time to time regarding paid news in sections of the print and electronic media. The Press Council of India deliberated upon the issue and released its 'Report on Paid News'. The recommendations made by the Council in the Report are to give more powers to the Press Council of India to check the menace of 'paid news' effectively.

The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the recommendations made in the report on 'paid news' prepared by the Press Council of India and to give its views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address this phenomenon. The matter is under consideration and no time limit has been specified for GoM to submit its report.

APPENDIX X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1591

ANSWERED ON 09.08.2011

DAVP Advertisement Policy

1591. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the existing advertisement policy of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP);

(b) whether a large number of errors/discrepancies have occurred in the different advertisements on Government policies/programmes etc. through various authorised agencies of the DAVP;

(c) if so, the details of such agencies which have been blacklisted by DAVP;

(d) whether the Government has sought suggestions from the stakeholders to fine tune the DAVP advertisement policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to incorporate such suggestions in the existing advertisement policy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), issues advertisements on behalf of the Central Government Ministries/Departments and for this purpose, DAVP has its Policies for Print Media Advertisements and Electronic Media Advertisements. A copy of both these Policies are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively.

(b) and (c) Large number of errors/discrepancies have not occurred in the advertisements issued by DAVP. However, in one instance, an error/discrepancy had occurred in the advertisement given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) which was released by DAVP and it appeared in the 'The Times of India' dated 24.01.2010. In this advertisement, a photograph of a foreign national was inserted inadvertently. However, an enquiry was held in the matter by the Ministry of WCD and it was found that such a lapse was an act of oversight.

The lapse went undetected at multiple levels since the proposal was processed in the face of acute shortage of time. Therefore, no specific persons(s) was held responsible for the inadvertent error.

(d) and (e) On demands raised by various authorities like National Broadcasters Association, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd, Sony Entertainment TV, BBC World News, the Ministry of I&B reconstituted the Empanlment Advisory Committee, under the Chairpersonship of Economic Advisor of the Ministry. The Committee had the following terms of reference:

(i) To consider and suggest rate structure, rates for spots, ticker/scroll, programmes etc. of Radio and TV channels and also to make recommendations regarding empanelment of such channels for telecast/ broadcast.

(ii) To suggest modification in the existing rate formula for TV, taking into account various factors such as Reach, Cost of Production, Efficacy of TAM data and alternative sources of determining the share of viewership of different channels;

(iii) Whether there could be different rates for different genres of channels *i.e.* News, Entertainment etc. and for different Time bands and reasonableness of existing rates for Prime Time band;

(iv) To see if rates could be a factor of cost per million as in print media;

(v) To provide for increase in rates in case of sudden spurt in channel share; and

(vi) Any other related matter if considered necessary by the Committee.

The EAC has submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Ministry.

ANNEXURE I

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DIRECTORATE OF ADVERTISING AND VISUAL PUBLICITY

NEW ADVERTISEMENT POLICY [*w.e.f.* 02.10.2007]

Clause-1

The Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the Nodal agency of the Government of India for advertising by various Ministries and Organizations of Government of India including public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies. The primary objective of the Government in advertising is to secure the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message through newspapers and journals of current affairs as well as Science Art, Literature, Sports, Films, Cultural Affairs etc. In releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals the DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of newspapers/journals. However, DAVP would avoid releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals, which incite or tend to incite communal passion, preach violence, offend the sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and behaviour.

In supersession of all earlier orders, the Government hereby lays down the New Advertisement Policy with effect from *2nd October*, *2007*.

NOTE: House Journals, Souvenirs and Annual Periodicals, will not be empanelled.

Clause-2

Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers/journals. DAVP maintains a list of newspapers/journals approved for release of advertisements by empanelling acceptable newspapers/journals. DAVP will empanel only such newspapers/journals as are required for issuing advertisements of the Government of India. Care is taken to empanel newspapers/journals having readership from different sections of the society in different parts of the country.

Clause-3

All Central Govt. Ministries/Departments/Attached & Subordinate Offices/Field Offices shall route their advertisements, including display advertisements, through DAVP. However, they may issue tender notices directly to empanelled newspapers only at DAVP rates. PSUs, Autonomous Bodies & Societies of Govt. of India may issue all advertisements, directly at DAVP rates to empanelled newspapers, provided all classified and display advertisements are released in the following manner:—

(In rupee terms)

Small	15% minimum
Medium	35% minimum

Big	50% maximum
English language	30% (approx.)
Hindi language	35% (approx.)
Regional and other languages*	35% (approx.)

Clause-4

All Ministries/Departments/Autonomous Bodies/Public Sector Undertakings/ Attached & Subordinate Offices will have to issue Letter of Authority (LOA) upto 80% of the actual expenditure in the previous year within the first month of the new financial year and clear all the remaining payments before 28th of February, of the financial year.

Clause-5

Panel Advisory Committee

There shall be a Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) for considering applications of newspapers/journals for being empanelled for receiving Government advertisements. This Committee shall be headed by Director General, DAVP and shall include Addl. Director General (Media & Communication)/Deputy Director General (Media & Communication) in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Press Registrar/Deputy Press Registrar and Director/Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dealing with Print Media. The Committee will also have one representative each from the Association of big, medium and small newspapers. The recommendations of the PAC as accepted by the DG, DAVP regarding empanelment of a newspaper shall be final.

Clause-6

In pursuance of broad social objectives of the Government and for ensuring fairness among various categories of newspapers/journals, the PAC considers empanelment of newspapers/journals belonging to the following categories on priority:

(a) Small and medium newspapers/journals.

(b) Language newspapers such as Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages as certified by State Governments.

(c) Newspapers/journals published in backward, remote, hilly and border areas and those published in J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States.

Clause-7

Newspapers/journals are classified into three categories, namely:

(i) Small, with a circulation of upto 25,000 copies per publishing day.

(ii) Medium, between 25,001 and 75,000 copies per publishing day, and

(iii) Big, with a circulation of above 75,000 copies per publishing day.

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* like Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages as certified by State Governments.

Clause-8

All Newspapers/journals are seeking empanelment should comply with following:

1. It must have been uninterruptedly and regularly under publication for a period of not less than 36 months save as under:

(a) To provide special encouragement for newspapers in languages like Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages/dialects as certified by State Governments OR newspapers published in J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States can be considered for empanelment after 6 months of regular and uninterrupted publication. In the case of all regional and other language small & medium newspapers, the qualifying period shall be 18 months.

(b) In order to tap the readership potential of mass circulated newspapers, with a circulation of one lakh and above, such newspapers be made eligible for empanelment after a period of 1 year of regular and uninterrupted publication. The circulation claim of such newspapers will be considered only if certified by RNI or ABC.

2. It should comply with the provisions of the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867.

3. It should not have been disqualified by DAVP in the last six years and should not be a defaulter of DAVP.

4. The period of disqualification should not exceed six years.

5. It should not have been unestablished by RNI at the time of applying.

6. The applicant should also furnish a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the RNI in the name of the publisher.

7. The details of the paper like size, language, periodicity, print area and details of printing press etc. as asked for in empanelment form may be given.

8. Further, it must be substantiated that the paper is being published at a reasonable standard. Reasonable standard, *inter alia,* means that—

(a) The Print matter and photographs should be legible, neat, clear and without smudges, overwriting, and tampering.

(b) There should be no repetition of news items or articles from other issues.

(c) There should be no reproduction of news items or articles from other newspapers/journals and the source of news/articles should be mentioned.

(d) Masthead on its front page should carry the title of the newspaper, place, date and day of publication; it should also carry RNI Registration Number, volume & issue number, number of pages and price of newspaper/journals.

(e) The newspaper should carry imprint line as required under PRB Act.

(f) Inner pages must carry page number, title of the paper and date of publication. For multi-editions place of publication must be mentioned in inner pages also. and

(g) All the publications must carry editorial.

NOTE: The publisher must ensure that his/her publication fulfils all the norms laid down in the Policy before applying for empanelment/rate renewal. The application form must be complete in all respects with supporting documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Fresh applications for empanelment may be made twice a year *i.e.* once at the end of February and other by the end of August. The Applications made before February and will be considered in month of May of the same year and their contract will start *w.e.f.* 1st July of the same year and applications made before August end will be considered in November and their contract will start .*w.e.f.* 1st January of the next year. The details of documents required for empanelment is in ANNEXURE.

Clause-9

Notwithstanding any of the provisions mentioned above, DG, DAVP, as Chairperson of the Panel Advisory Committee, will have discretion to grant provisional empanelment to a newspaper, subject to approval of the PAC, for a period of six months or till the next meeting of the PAC if the newspaper has completed all the formalities required for empanelment and otherwise found suitable for issue of Government advertisements. All such cases of provisional empanelment will be placed before the PAC in its next meeting.

Clause-10

Rate Contract

All empanelled newspapers/publications will be asked to enter into a rate contract, which will be valid for a period of 3 years. However, a change in circulation can be accepted only once, after completion of one year from the date of rate contract, during the validity period of the rate contract, on the basis of CA/RNI/ABC certificates, as applicable, duly supported with the proof of submission of Annual Return for the previous year to RNI. However, in case of information regarding decrease in circulation from ABC/RNI, the decision of DG, DAVP will be final.

NOTE 1: Application for renewal of rate Contract can be downloaded from DAVP website.

NOTE 2: All empanelled publications must submit a copy of annual retrun submitted to RNI with receiving proof from RNI for the previous year, by 30th September every year, failing which the newspaper can be deempanelled by DG, DAVP.

Clause-11

Regularity

The applicant should have published the newspaper on at least 25 days in each

month during preceding 12 months. Weeklies should have published 46 issues during the preceding year, fortnightlies 23 issues and monthlies 11 issues during the preceding year to be considered being brought out regularly.

Clause-12

Newspapers/journals having established circulation of more than 75,000 copies per publishing day, as certified by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) can seek empanelment of their fresh edition from a new place after having regular publication for preceding 4 months with same title, but in such cases empanelment of fresh edition will be only in the lowest slab of circulation. In case of small and medium papers (dailies), new editions can also be empanelled after 4 months of regular publication as per circulation certified by CA in the prescribed format subject to other conditions of Advertisement Policy.

Clause-13

A newspaper/journal should have a minimum paid circulation of not less than 2000 copies for being considered eligible for empanelment. However, newspapers/ journals in Bodo, Dogri, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages as certified by State Governments published all over the country and newspaper/ journal published in backward, border, hilly areas OR remote areas OR tribal languages OR those published in J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and North-Eastern States need to have substantiated minimum paid circulation of only 500 copies per publishing day.

Clause-14

A newspaper/journal should have the following minimum print area:

PERIODICITY	PRINT AREA NOT LESS THAN
Dailies	1520 Std. Col. Cms./7600 Sq. Cms.
Weeklies/Fortnightlies	700 Std. Col. Cms./3500 Sq. Cms.
Monthlies	960 Std. Col. Cms./4800 Sq. Cms.

Exceptions may, however, be made by PAC in the case newspapers/journal falling in the categories mentioned in Clause 13.

Clause-15

The empanelment already grants by the DG, DAVP earlier will remain valid for the duration for which empanelment has been made.

Clause-16

The applicant newspaper/journal should furnish authenticated figures of circulation of ABC, Cost Accountant/Statutory Auditor/Chartered Accountant as per the criteria below:

Up to 2500 — Cost/Chartered Accountant/StatutoryAuditor Certificate in prescribed proforma/ABC Certificate.

25001-75000 —

Companies: Statutory Auditor certificate in prescribed proforma/ABC certificate.

Individuals: Chartered Accountant certificate in prescribed proforma/ABC certificate.

Above 75000 — ABC/RNI certificate.

DAVP will take average circulation for the preceding one year as certified by RNI/ABC/Statutory Auditor/CA certificate, whichever is less.

***NOTE 1*:** The copies sold at more than 40% commission over the cover price of newspapers will not be taken into account for calculating DAVP rate.

***NOTE 2*:** RNI circulation certificate will be valid up to 4 years from the date of issue for the purpose.

***NOTE 3*:** A publication with circulation upto 25000 need not submit RNI/ABC certificate.

Clause-17

DG, DAVP reserves the right to have figures of circulation checked through its representatives or through RNI. However, there will be no circulation check for newspapers/journals with circulation upto 25,000.

Clause-18

Suspension and Recoveries: A newspaper may be suspended from empanelment by DG, DAVP with immediate effect if

(a) found to have deliberately submitted false information regarding circulation or otherwise; or

(b) found to have discontinued its publication, changed its periodicity or its title or have become irregular or changed its premises/press without due intimation; or

(c) It has failed to submit its' Annual Return to the RNI or its' Annual Circulation Certificate from the prescribed agencies or

(d) Indulged in unethical practices or anti national activities as found by the Press Council of India. However, DAVP shall refer the case to the Ministry for appropriate decision in the matter.

(e) Convicted by Court of Law for such activities.

(f) It refuses to accept and carry an advertisement issued by DAVP on behalf of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies on more than two occasions.

Provided that DG, DAVP shall not issue any order of suspension without giving a reasonable opportunity to the concerned newspaper in cases covered by (a), (b), (c), & (f) above.

In such cases the paper will remain suspended for a period upto 12 months. DAVP will effect recovery of any payments made in the past from the publisher in the case of (a), (b) & (c) above. The publisher should deposit within 60 days from the date of issue of Demand Letter for recovery by DAVP failing which empanelment of the paper will be discontinued with immediate effect without any further notice and recovery will be realized from the bills/payments pending with DAVP, if any. Till the recovery is made, no advertisement will be issued.

Advertising Rate

Clause-19

The rate structure for payment against advertisements released by DAVP will be worked out as per recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee. The rates will be related to certified circulation of a newspaper. All empanelled newspapers will have to enter into rate contract with DAVP on the basis of rate offered and other terms and conditions as laid down from time to time to ensure proper publication of DAVP advertisements as and when issued to such newspapers.

Payment and Adjustment Bills

Clause-20

DAVP will release payment of advertisement bills in the name of the payee and at the address given by the newspaper in the application form for renewal of rate contract or fresh application for empanelment, as the case may be. No change in the payee's name or address will be entertained during the year of empanelment unless it is justified and found unavoidable or compelling.

Clause-21

Every newspaper shall send one copy of the newspaper at their cost carrying DAVP advertisements, to the client at the address mentioned in the Release Order, failing which payment for the advertisement may not be considered. In addition, DAVP may ask for regular supply of specimen copies of any empanelled publication for period considered necessary. Newspapers may inform DAVP within 48 hours, if they have not been able to publish the advertisement on the due date.

Clause-22

Every newspaper shall submit advertisement bills, complete in all respect, and supported with relevant documents, within 60 days of the publication of the advertisement. DAVP will make every effort to pay the advertisement bill within 60 days of receipt of bill.

Clause-23

No Newspaper will publish DAVP advertisement without receipt of the relevant Release Order. The DAVP issues Electronic Release Order through its website: *www.davp.nic.in.* No newspaper will publish DAVP advertisements without valid Release Order issued in its name. Request for a duplicate Release Order by publications will be entertained on merits and on case to case basis.

Clause-24

The newspaper will have to strictly adhere to the date of publication of DAVP advertisements as given in the Release Order Publication of advertisement on dates other than that given in the Release Order, will not be accepted for payment.

Clause-25

Release of Advertisements

As soon as requisitions for release of advertisements are received from various Ministries and Departments. DAVP will prepare a suitable media list keeping in view the objectives of the client Ministries/Departments, the contents, target audience for the advertisement and availability of funds in consultation with the client Ministries/Departments.

Clause-26

DAVP will make efforts to release more advertisements to periodicals especially social messages and advertisements which are not date specific. Efforts will also be made to release more advertisements to newspapers with special emphasis on North East, J&K and other remote areas.While releasing display advertisements, DAVP will ensure that a balance is maintained between various categories of newspapers taking into account circulation, language, coverage area etc. For this purpose, the distribution of advertisements, Rupee terms, will be as under:

Category	**Ceiling (in rupee terms)**
Small	- 15% (minimum)
Medium	- 35% (minimum)
Big	- 50% (maximum)
English	- 30% (approx.)
Hindi	- 35 (approx.)
Regional and other languages	- 35% (approx.)

The above norms are indicative and should be adhered to in the overall media strategy of the Ministries/Departments to ensure maximum coverage at optimum cost. However, specific cases where a Ministry/Department wishes to make a deviation from these norms, full and detailed justification should be given while placing the order.

DAVP shall bring all such deviations to the notice of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for information and necessary action.

Clause-27

The powers to review vests with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in cases where DG: DAVP is the final authority.

ANNEXURE

Documents required for empanelment with DAVP

1. RNI registration Certificate Number.
2. Evidence for Circulation (Chartered Accountant Certificate/Cost Accountant Certificate/Statutory Auditor Certificate/ABC Certificate, as applicable).
3. Copy of the annual return submitted to RNI.
4. A daily newspaper should furnish issues of first one month of the year of their publication along with issues of the 18th month and 35th month of their publication and weeklies and fortnightlies must furnish issues of preceeding six months and monthlies should furnish latest 12 months issues. Daily Publications more than 3 years old and not previously empanelled with DAVP will furnish the relevant copies starting with the previous 3 years in the same manner as above.
5. Three copies of the rate card.
6. Photocopy of the Permanent Account Number (issued by Department of Income Tax).

ANNEXURE II

ELECTRONIC MEDIA ADVERTISEMENT POLICY OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. DAVP is the nodal agency for release of message through TV & Radio sports/ jingles/programmes etc. for Ministries/Departments and organizations of the Govt. of India.

2. The primary objective of empanelment of Channels and fixing their telecast/ broadcast rates is to obtain the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message for the target audience in a cost effective manner. While releasing such advertisement sports/jingles etc. DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of radio / TV Channels. However, DAVP will not release advertisements to such Channels, which incite or tend to incite communal passion, preach violence, offend sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and behaviour. Since Media planning for a campaign would be done on the basis of publicity requirement and target audience for that campaign, the empanelment of a Channel would not guarantee assured business.

3. All Central Government publicity releases on private TV/Radio Channels will be routed through DAVP. However, the Ministries/Departments (including semi-Govt., autonomous bodies, PSUs etc.) would be free to issue their audio-visual advertisements through NFDC to the channels empanelled with DAVP but only at DAVP approved rates.

4. Foreign Channels not approved by Government shall not be empanelled. No advertisement shall be released to those foreign/Indian Channels where the Government has revoked permission of up linking or where Government has banned the Channels.

5. **EMPANELMENT OF SATELLITE TV CHANNELS:**

Channels interested to be empanelled with DAVP must apply in response to DAVP's advertisement, which will be made twice a year, once on 31st of March and second time on 30th of September. Doordarshan and Lok Sabha Television or any other Government owned Channel would be taken as automatically empanelled. However, if Doordarshan appoint any Agency for space marketing of specific events *e.g.* sports events, DAVP can call for quotations from such agencies, and negotiate the rates, as per rate structure formula provided in this policy.

5(1). **CRITERIA FOR EMPANELMENT OF SATELLITE TV CHANNELS:**

A Channel should fulfill the following minimum criteria to be eligible to be considered for empanelment:

(a) **Minimum telecast period—**the Channel should have completed at least six months of continuous telecast period by 31st of March or 30th of

September, whichever is applicable. Provided, however, that a channel can be considered for empanelment by DG, DAVP, after three months of continuous operation, if it has achieved all India channel share of 0.02%.

(b) **Minimum Channel share—**Any Channel to be empanelled must have at least 0.02% all Channel share in all India universe in C&S homes (parameters: 15+age group, both male/female, all SECs, 06.00-23.59 hrs. time band, all week days) as per TAM or any other established TV viewership survey agency approved by Government.

(c) **Exemption category—**The following would be exempted from the requirement of minimum Channel share as mentioned in clause 5(1)(b) above:

(i) Channels catering exclusively to viewers in North-East, J&K, Jharkhand & Bihar, since TAM or any other established TV viewership survey agency approved by Government is not yet covering these States.

(ii) Channels dominant in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal/ minority languages.

5(2). The rates of empanelled Channels will be decided by DAVP on the basis of the Cost Per Rating Points (CPRP) formula approved by the Government, *vide* Ministry of I&BI.D. No. 1/50/2006-MUC dated 24.03.2008.

6. **OTHER CONDITIONS REGARDING EMPANELMENT/FIXATION OF RATES:**

(a) Channels applying for empanelment will submit a certificate that the information submitted by them is correct and they will abide by the decision of DAVP regarding empanelment. Incase the information submitted by the Channels in Found to be false and/or incorrect in any manner, the channel can be suspended and/or debarred from empanelment.

(b) Empanelment and Advertisement rates will be valid for one year or till such time as new panel & rates are in place, whichever is later. However, in case of more than 15% variation in TAM ratings continuously for 6 months period, DAVP can with prior approval of Government, review advertisement rates, for any channel.

(c) Channels will undertake in writing that DAVP approved rates accepted by them are their lowest rates and exclusive to DAVP and cannot be offered to any other agency. DAVP reserves the right to review empanelment rates if this condition is violated.

(d) A Channel may be debarred from getting Govt. advertisements from DAVP if at any time it refuses to accept and carry advertisements issued by DAVP on behalf of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies, on more than two occasions.

(e) Notwithstanding any of the provisions mentioned above for empanelment of Channels and their rates and other terms and conditions, incase of any disagreement etc., decision of DAVP will be final and binding.

7. **RELEASE OF SPORTS ETC.:**

(a) As soon as requisition for release of advertisements are received from various Ministries/Departments, DAVP will prepare a suitable media plan, keeping in view the contents of message, the target audience and available funds after consideration of requirements of the client.

(b) After receiving approval of the client Ministry/Deptt. of the media plan, TV/ Radio sports will be released on various Channels, DAVP will ensure availability of funds by obtaining Letter of Authority, before the advertisements are released. Total advertisements in monetary terms to any Channel should not be more that 5% of the agreed budget except in cases where a specific request comes from various Ministries for a particular Channel.

(c) DAVP will not take any departmental overhead charges. Besides this, DAVP will pass on to the client Ministries the 15% agency commission it receives from TV/Radio Channels.

8. **PAYMENTS OF BILLS:**

Every Channel will be obliged to submit its telecast/broadcast bills complete in all respects along with telecast/broadcast certificates within 30 days of completion of campaign or last date of monthly telecasts in prescribed format. The telecast/ broadcast certificates, submitted by the Channels will be the basic proof of telecast/ broadcast. However, third party monitoring *viz.* TAM (Adex) in case of TV Channels can be subscribed to get additional supporting telecast certificates for the Channels. DAVP will make every effort to release the payment within 45 days of receipt of bills.

9. Recovery shall be made incase of excess payments to TV/Radio Channels.

10. **EMPANELMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

This policy may be amended from time to time as and when considered necessary. For this, an Empanelment Advisory committee will be constituted by the Ministry, for making recommendations regarding guidelines, empanelment and telecast/ broadcast rate structure for sports, programmes, etc., and any other new Electronic Media. **The Committee will submit its report to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for final approval and notification.**

11. **DATE OF EFFECT:**

This policy shall come into free with inmediate effect.

* * * *

Note: The recommendation of Empanelment Advisory Committee (EAC) for advertisement rates for Radio Channels are awaited. As such the modified guidelines for empanelment of Private Radio Channel and criteria for fixation of advertisement rates will be issued separately. Till such time the extant policy will apply *Mutatis Mutandis.*

APPENDIX XI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3301
ANSWERED ON 23.08.2011

Mechanism to Regulate TV Content

3301. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV:
SHRI MANSUKH BHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
DR. NILESH N. RANE:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent mechanism to monitor/regulate TV content in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made so far;

(c) whether the Government has set up a task force for holding consultations with the stakeholders/other broadcasting associations on the issue of regulating the broadcast content;

(d) if so, whether the said task force has submitted its report to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) & (b) The Ministry has set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) which is capable of monitoring the content of around 300 private satellite TV channels on 24x7 basis. The Ministry has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to consider complaints and take *suomoto* cognizance of content related violations of satellite channels and recommend appropriate course of action. There is no proposal presently under the consideration of the Ministry to set up a statutory independent broadcasting authority. Further, the Ministry has been making efforts to promote self regulation as far as regulation of TV content is concerned. Further, as part of their self regulatory mechanism, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) for regulating general entertainment channels; and

News Broadcasters Association (NBA) formed News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider the content related complaints of news channels. Advertisement Standard Council of India (ASCI) has also developed a Code of conduct for self regulation in advertising and they have set up a Consumer Complaints cell (CCC) to examine complaints relating to advertisements.

(c) to (e) The Ministry had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government. The Task Force consisting of representatives of the Ministry and the broadcasting industry, held consultations with different stakeholders. A number of diverging views emerged during its consultations. However, within the industry, the preponderant view is that self-regulation is the best way to regulate the media and no purpose would be served by introducing any other measures to regulate content. The report of the Task Force is awaited.

APPENDIX XII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 109

ANSWERED ON 22.11.2011

Amendment in PCI Act

109. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
ABDULRAHMAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the alleged unethical practices resorted to by some of the media, both print as well as electronic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from the PCI seeking amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 for arming it with more powers and bringing the electronic media under its jurisdiction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) & (b) There have been reports of unethical practices being resorted to by the media. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body set up for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which covers principles and ethics of journalism and should be adhered to by the media, of late, there also have been a number of media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individual or organizations or corporate entities for what is essentially "advertisement" disguised as "news". This has been commonly referred to as the "paid news". The PCI has taken cognizance of the issue of this unethical practice and has released a Report on Paid News, The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the

Report on Paid News prepared by the Press Council of India and give its views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address the phenomenon of 'Paid News'.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) Press Council of India, having observed that the powers provided under Press Council Act, 1978 are not adequate for effective implementation of its directives, has proposed amendments in the Press Council Act, 1978. PCI has proposed to amend the Act to bring electronic media under its jurisdiction. Further, some of the major amendments intend to arm the Council with more powers with PCI against those who violate journalistic ethics, such as withdrawal of Government advertisements, suspension of registration of newspapers and accreditation of the editor or journalist. The proposed amendments also envisage providing power to PCI to give directions in respect of conduct of any authority including the Government.

The proposed amendments are being examined and will be drafted carefully after wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.

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APPENDIX XIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 103

ANSWERED ON 29.11.2011

Functioning of Prasar Bharati

*103. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various issues concerning Prasar Bharati causing and adverse impact on its functioning have been addressed to;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has approved the amendments to Prasar Bharati Act, making appointments made between November, 1997 and October, 2007 as "deemed deputation" till retirement thereby giving these employees the benefit of availing services like other public servants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken to improve the functioning of the national broadcaster?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati (PB) has been facing various financial and administrative issues since its inception which has been hampering its smooth functioning. Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into various issues pertaining to the functioning of PB. The GoM considered various issues and made recommendations for improving governance and financial management of PB. The GoM recommendations, *inter alia*, include the following:—

- To make amendments to section 11 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 to settle issues regarding various categories of employees serving in PB.
- 3452 essential category posts in PB should be filled up to address manpower shortage.

- Government should extend financial assistance to PB from Non-Plan funds to meet 100% expenses towards salary and salary related expenses and augmentation/replacement of capital assets during the next five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. All other items of operating expenses shall be borne by PB from out of its internal resources.
- Accumulated arrears of space segment and spectrum charges of PB up to 31.3.2011 should be waived.
- Restoration of section 22 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 in its original form to exempt PB from paying Income Tax.
- Loans provided by the Government to PB should be converted into grants-in-aid
- Interests accrued on the loans provided to PB to be waived.
- Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 should be amended comprehensively to improve its functioning.

As recommended by GoM, the amendments to section 11 of the PB Act have been approved by the Cabinet and the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 31.8.2010. In respect of other important recommendations of GoM, a proposal seeking approval of Cabinet is under Inter-Ministerial consultation.

(c) &(d) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2010 is pending consideration in Rajya Sabha. Section 11 of the Act once amended, will provide clarity to the status of employees. It *inter alia* provides that those employees who were regularly recruited during the period on or after 23.11.1997 till 5.10.2007 will be Government employees on deemed deputation, whereas employees recruited after 5.10.2007 would be Prasar Bharati employees. In order to provide further clarity to the status of employees recruited during 23.11.1997 to 5.10.2007, an official Amendment is being introduced in the current Session of Parliament, making a provision to the effect that these employees will be Government employees until their retirement.

(e) Several steps are being taken to improve governance and financial management of PB. Some important steps in this direction are as below:

- PB has finalised Recruitment Regulations for different categories of posts which are under the consideration of the Government. A proposal for constitution of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) is under Inter-Ministerial consultation. These will enable PB to address issues of staff crunch.
- The Ministry has accorded high priority for the digitalization of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) for which adequate funds have been provided to PB in the Plan allocation. Plan fund support is also being provided to PB for improving software on various DD/AIR channels.

- Marketing set up of PB is being revamped and restructured so as to make it more effcient, pro-active and market friendly.
- PB also plans to expand its Direct-to-Home (DTH) platform from existing 59 channels which will provide better access and facility to people in rural areas.
- e-auctioning of slots on DTH to private channels has resulted in increase in the internal revenue generation of PB. Till date PB has generated Rs. 73.61 crores from auction of 29 slots on the DTH-DD Platform.

APPENDIX XIV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1305

ANSWERED ON 29.11.2011

Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill

1305. SHRI KACHHADIA NARANBHAI:

Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill being formulated to regulate broadcasting services like TV channels and FM radio and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(b) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines for controlling the broadcasting of content and frequency by FM radio at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the representatives of the News Broadcasters Association, Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Broadcast Editors Association have expressed their apprehension about the new uplinking and downlinking norms being framed by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the basics for such apprehension from the broadcasters?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) The Ministry had formulated a draft Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill in 2007 for ensuring orderly growth of Broadcasting Services and the same was placed on the website of the Ministry inviting comments of stakeholders. There was stiff opposition from the broadcasters and others on the proposed structure of the Broadcast Regulator and on the issue of regulation of content. A Task Force was therefore constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to

understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government.

Meanwhile, the industry has set up a self regulatory mechanism for content regulation. As part of their self regulatory initiative, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up the Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) to regulate the content on general entertainment channels. The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has formed News Broadcasting Standards (NBSA) to consider the content related complaints of news channels. Advertisement Standard Council of India (ASCI) has also developed a Code of conduct for self regulation in advertising and they have set up a Consumer Complaints Cell (CCC) to examine complaints relating to advertisements. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Ministry to regulate various broadcasting services by way of establishing a Broadcast Regulator.

(b) to (d) The existing regulatory framework enshrined in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules promulgated thereunder contain adequate provisions to regulate telecast of programmes and advertisements by private satellite television channels. There is at present no need for any separate regulatory mechanism. In so far as FM Radio is concerned, Government has not issued any guidelines for controlling frequency; however, a policy guidelines has been issued by the Government on 25.7.2011 for expansion of FM Radio broadcast through private firms in FM Phase-III, the details of which are available on Ministry's website *www.mib.nic.in*

(e) & (f) It was reported in several newspapers that broadcasters have certain apprehensions with regard to amendments in the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines regarding conditions for renewal of permission of TV Channels. Their apprehensions were dispelled in a meeting by the Ministry with broadcasters.

APPENDIX XV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1356

ANSWERED ON 29.11.2011

University Status to FTII & SRFTI

1356. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a law to recognise the degrees awarded by the Film Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute by awarding these Institutes a University status;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (c) A Bill primarily to declare the Film and Television Institutes under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting as Institutes of National importance on similar lines to that of IIT, NIT and NIFT with a view to have a recognised administrative structure, academic body and also with a view to give statutory recognition to the courses being conducted by the Institutes, has been proposed. This involves wide consultations with other Departments/Ministries and other processes such as obtaining approval before being introduced. This is, therefore, a time consuming process and it would be difficult to prescribe a time limit at this stage.

APPENDIX XVI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3162

ANSWERED ON 13.12.2011

Re-Constitution of PCI

3162. SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL:
SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to re-constitute the Press Council of India and rename it as 'The Media Council of India';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) to (c) The Chairman, Press Council of India (PCI) has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister proposing to bring electronic media under the jurisdiction of PCI and to rename it as Media Council. Subsequently PCI, in its meeting held on 17.11.2011 has decided to hold further debate on the proposal of Chairman, PCI.

APPENDIX XVII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3186

ANSWERED ON 13.12.2011

Vacancies in TV/Radio Stations

3186. SHRI HASSAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to fill up all the vacancies in TV and Radio stations set up in the border areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such vacancies are likely to be filled up on regular appointment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals for establishment of a Recruitment Board for Prasar Bharati and notifying Recruitment Rules are under consideration of Government. As the process can only commence after they are approved, no timeframe can be specified.

APPENDIX XVIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363

ANSWERED ON 20.12.2011

Publication of Foreign News Magazines

*363. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines for the Foreign Direct Investment in the print media;

(b) whether the Government has approved the publication of foreign news magazines in partnership with Indian promoters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the journalists and the domestic newspapers in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2011 REGARDING PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN NEWS MAGAZINES

As per the existing policy for foreign direct investment in print media, foreign investment upto 26% of the capital is allowed to the Indian companies publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs whereas FDI upto 100% is allowed in Indian companies publishing Scientific/Technical/Speciality magazines/periodicals/journals. The Government has allowed Indian publishing companies to bring out facsimile editions of foreign newspapers and 26% FDI is allowed in such cases. The foreign publishing house who owns the foreign newspaper is also allowed to bring out the facsimile edition of the foreign newspaper through its wholly-owned Indian subsidiary.

The Government has allowed publication of Indian editions of foreign news magazines by the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The

investment in such companies would be permissible to foreign entities with sound credentials and international standing. The permission would also be subject to certain conditions such as 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the Indian company and all key Executives and Editorial staff have to be resident Indians.

As per the print media policy, foreign newspapers dealing mainly with news and current affairs are not being allowed to being out Indian editions. Although the facsimile editions of foreign newspapers are allowed but they are not allowed to carry advertisements in any form aimed at Indian subscribers. These and other measures such as limiting the FDI in the News Sector of the print media has benefited the domestic newspaper industry.

These policy measures including limited FDI in the news and current affairs sector of the Print media have benefited the domestic newspaper industry.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): Madam, now there is 26 per cent FDI in publications of news magazines. The Ministry had ordered to fill all the posts of senior executives and journalists from the Indian origin only. But even after all this, is the Ministry aware that the foreign media is influencing the Indian market by propagating their respective countries' interest and profit specially through the business and financial magazines resulting in wrong investment by our own people.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your Supplementary.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): In such a situation, how would the Ministry tackle this problem?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Madam, the basic structure of the Print Media Policy of the Government comes from the Cabinet decision of 1955, which had laid down that no foreign owned newspapers and publications should be published in India. The foreign newspapers and periodicals dealing mainly with the news and current affairs should not be allowed to bring out Indian editions.

In view of the liberalisation of Indian economy, a certain percentage of foreign direct investment, that is, 26 per cent, has been given for the news and current affairs sector.....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions).....(Not recorded)

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: But it is mandatory that no foreign owner can bring out even an Indian edition of his or her newspaper. It has to be done through a company registered under the Indian Companies Act and there has been no violation. Only facsimile edition of a foreign newspaper is allowed to be brought out in India. Though permission has been given to two newspapers, only one has so far been bringing a facsimile edition with no Indian advertisements or no Indian content in its facsimile edition.

MADAM SPEAKER: Put your second supplementary.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): There is no supplementary question.

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना): अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने जो प्रश्न पूछा था, उनके प्रश्न क्रमांक 'घ' में जो बात देशी पत्रकारों और घरेलू समाचार-पत्रों के संबंध में थी, उसके संबंध में उन्होंने कोई भी उत्तर नहीं दिया। देश में बड़ी संख्या में श्रमजीवी पत्रकार हैं जो काम तो करते हैं, लेकिन उनके वेतन-भत्ते, जी॰पी॰एफ॰, इलाज आदि की व्यवस्था न के बराबर है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जिस तरह की भाषा का प्रयोग होता है, हम लोक संसद में संसदीय भाषा का प्रयोग करते हैं। समाचार-पत्रों में भी क्या संसदीय भाषा का प्रयोग होना चाहिए या नहीं होना चाहिए? आमतौर पर देखा जाता है कि जिस भाषा का प्रयोग वे लोग करते हैं, उससे लोगों का काफी कुछ अपमान होता है। मुझे लगता है कि इससे समाज के बीच में एक अच्छा संदेश नहीं जाता? क्या भारत सरकार कोई ऐसा कानून बनाएगी? प्रेस काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया से बहुत उम्मीदें थीं, लेकिन प्रेस काउंसिल भी कुछ नहीं कर पा रही है। मेरी मांग है कि सरकार जिस तरह से लोकतंत्र में उनको अधिकार है, यह बिल्कुल सही बात है, लेकिन संसदीय भाषा का प्रयोग उनको भी करने के लिए क्या सरकार प्रयत्न करेगी?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Madam, as far as the content and management of all the newspapers are concerned, there is a Press Council of India which is created by an Act of Parliament. There is an ongoing debate in the country. The Chairman of the Press Council has expressed his anxiety about the Press Council not being sufficiently empowered to take care of many of the problems which are arising on a day to day basis. That debate is going on. When the debate reaches any kind of a culmination, I am sure the GoM, which has been set up by the Government to look into this whole issue, will bring whatever the culmination of the debate before the Parliament.

But I would like to answer the earlier part of the question. It is with a certain sense of pride the House must realize that India today is one of the biggest countries for media presence. There are about 77,000 newspapers, magazines, journals, weekly, fortnightly and monthly which are produced in this country. It is the proactive policy of the UPA Government which has paid. An extra amount of allocation has been made for education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. There are 350 million peple who read newspapers. They are now being joined and added by another 250 million people who are wanting to read newspapers because of the increase of literacy. That is why, today there are 77,000 newspapers in small, medium and large categories. When newspapers increase, naturally people find employmen tas journalists and other non-journalist employees in the newspaper industry. But there are a lot of other things which the UPA Government has in the last few years takne care of. It is not that the journalists wanted this and not that anybody demanded that but it was a proactive suo motu desire of the Government to provide some basic amenitited. Of course, I will not refere to the Wage Board;s recommendations. That will come under another Ministry, namely the Ministry of Labour and Employment. But our Ministry has also accepted the Wage Board's recommendations.

Along with that, the Government has created a pool of housing for journalists. A large number of senior journalists have been accommodated under the Central Government Health Scheme. There is an on-going ecercise between the Ministry of Health and my Ministry to accommodate further number of journalists under some kind of insurance policy for health purposes.

I would only like to say that the Press and Registration of Books Act, which had not been amended since 1967 in any meaningful way, is now waiting to be slotted in the Business Advisory Committee for discussion in the Parliament. So, a lot of steps have been taken toprotect the industryand to protect those working for the industry.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (कौशाम्बी): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, मै अपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी ये पूछना चाहूंगा, मेरा मूल प्रश्न इसमें जो ''घ'' दिया हुआ है, उससे है कि सरकार द्वारा देश में पत्रकारों और घरेलू समाचार-पत्रों के हितों की सुरक्षा के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? उर्दू के बारे में मेरा मूल प्रश्न है, इस सदन में बड़े विस्तार से सभी सम्मानित पार्टी की लीडर्स ने भी इस पर चर्चा की थी। माननीय मुलायम सिंह यादव जी ने इस मामले को उठाया था कि जा हमारे उर्दू के समाचार-पत्र हैं, वे बहुत उपेक्षित हैं। उनके लिए आपने क्या कार्य-योजना तैयार की, उनके विज्ञापन के लिए क्या कार्य-योजना बनाई, इस बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी विस्तार से बताएं?

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगी कि जब यह प्रश्न पहले उठाया गया था, उसी वक्त मैंने लिखित में जवाब दिया था कि ही लोगों ने हाल में यह प्रयास किया है कि जो सर्क्युलेशन है, उसके मुताबिक ही नहीं, लेकिन हिन्दी, उर्दु और दूसरी क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को डीएवीपी नीति के द्वारा अधिक एडवरटाइजमेंट, इश्तहार देने चाहिए। इसमें कई लोगों को एतराज भी हुआ है। मेरे से कुछ अंग्रेजी अखबारों ने शिकायत भी की थी कि हमारी अखबारों के एडवरटाइज़मेंट क्यों बंद किए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन मेरा यह प्रयास है कि छोटे और मध्यम क्षेत्र के अखबारों को हम ज्यादा इश्तहार दें और उर्दू का खास करके न सिर्फ ज्यादा, मैं पूरे आंकड़े लाई हूं। ये साबित करते हैं कि उर्दू भाषा की अखबारों को न सिर्फ अधिक इश्तहार दिए गए हैं। दूसरा जो उर्दू अखबारों के लिए रेकग्निशन एवं एम्पेनलमेंट का क्राइटीरिया है, इसको ओर प्रो-फ्रेंडली किया गया है, उसमें ज्यादा राहत दी गई है।

मेरे पास पूरे आंकड़े हैं कि कितने इश्तहार किस भाषा के अखबार को दिए जा रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान) मैंने पहले ही कहा कि हम हिन्दी को, क्योंकि उसकी सर्क्युलेशन अधिक है। (व्यवधान)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (कौशाम्बी): मैंने उर्दू के बारे में पूछा था।...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: अभी माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब दे रहीं हैं, आप इनका जवाव सुन लीजिए। आप बैठ जाइए।

...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

(Interruption)...(Not recoreded)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. You please address the Chair.

...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहती हूं कि उर्दू की अखबारों के आंकड़े में माननीय सदस्य को लिखित में आज शाम को भिजवा दूंगी, क्योंकि यहां से आंकड़े बताने में बहुत समय लगेगा। मेरे पास पूरे आंकड़े हैं कि पिछले तीन सालों में ये किस कद्र बढ़ाया गया है।...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: ठीक है, आप माननीय सदस्य को शाम तक ये आंकड़े भिजवा दें।

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has achnowledged that philosophy beind our print media policy goes back to 1955. Since then, we have seen the invention of the internet, which is essentially the limitation of the usefulness of distinction between publication in this country and publication abroad. An Indian citizen with access to computer can read publications printed abroad that are available hundred percent abroad and available here. The question I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you, Madam Speaker, is what useful public policy purpose is served by preserving this distinction in today's internet era? Secondly, has now the time come to revisit the print media policy of 1955 in view of the realities of the 21st Century.

(f1/1125/kvj-mkg)

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Madam, the Policy of 1955 has been revisited. As I stated earlier, with the liberalization process, 26 per cent FDI has been allowed in foreign news and that category of newspapers. But it has been our considered policy and there is no unanimity in the country on increasing this Foreign Direct Investment quotient. It is also an endeavour on the part of the government, as was asked by some hon. Members, to encourage the newspaper industry which is indigenous, which is Indian, so that our people do not lose their source of employment. so, there is a debate goingon in this regard. It is only in view of the debate not being conclusive and not being unanimous that it has been allowed 26 per cent and that also under the Indian Companies Act through wholly registered Indian companies.

The general category can get a 100 per cent FDI provided they are brought out by the Indian companies. I have the exact figures of the number of foreign journals both in the categories of news and current affairs as well as those dealing with general matters like science and other technology related issues. This is going on. It is a question of evolution. I agree that internet has made it much easier to access foreign newspapers as well. But the policy has to remain conducive to employment for the Indians.

APPENDIX XIX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4297

ANSWERED ON 20.12.2011

Irregularities in DD Film Section

4297. DR. MAHESH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed any irregularity in the functioning of Doordarshan, particularly the film section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA): (a) to (c) On the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, Central Vigilance Commission conducted an enquiry into the alleged financial and administrative irregularities in the Prasar Bharati. On the basis of CVC report, a Presidential reference has been made to the Supreme Court for conducting an enquiry.

Shri B.S. Lalli has been placed under suspension by an order of the President till such time the orders are passed by President on the basis of report received from Supreme Court.

A high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri V.K. Shuglu, was constituted to look into the issues relating to organizing and conduct of Commonwealth Games, 2010. A copy of the report, submitted by the Committee, has been sent to the CBI through Department of Personnel & Training for initiating further action as deemed appropriate. CBI has registered a regular case against Shri Lalli and initiated criminal investigation in the matter.

Action for inititating disciplinary proceedings against Dr. Aruna Sharma, the then DG: Doordarshan is in progress. CBI had also sought permission of Ministry of Information AND Broadcasting for registration of a regular case against Dr. Aruna Sharma. CBI was informed that she had already been relieved from Ministry of I & B on expiry of her tenure on 19.02.2011.

In so far as film section of Doordarshan is concerned, no such issues have come to the notice of the Government.

APPENDIX XX

(*Vide* Para 6 of the Report)

EXTRACTS FROM MANUAL OF PRACTICE & PROCEDURE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI

Definition	8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at *Annexure 3*. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.
	8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.
Deletion from the list of assurances	8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.
	8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with a

request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Time limit for fulfilling an assurance.

8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.

Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance.

8.4.2 If the Department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.

Registers of assurances.

8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at *Annexure 4* after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.

8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at *Annexure 5.*

8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session-wise.

Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer.

8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:

(a) scrutinise the registers once a week;

(b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;

(c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and

(d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.

8.6.2 The branch officer will like-wise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.

Procedure for fulfillment of an assurance.

8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.

8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at *Annexure 6,* together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.

8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.

Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House.

8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.

Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House *vis-a-vis*

8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/ notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfillment of the obligation, independent

of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which subject.the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma *(Annexure 6)* in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.	assurance on the same subject.
8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government Assuranes nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed stricity.	Committees on Government Assurances LSR323,324 RSS 211-A.
8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two Committees for remedial action wherever called for.	Reports of the Committee on Government Assurances.
8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.	Effect on assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

TENTH SITTING

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2014-2015) HELD ON 06 MAY, 2015 IN COMMITTEE ROOM '139', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1700 hours to 1915 hours on Wednesday, 06 May, 2015.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank—*Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri K.C. Venugopal
7. Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar
8. Shri Tariq Anwar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Director*
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Kulvinder Singh — *Committee Officer*

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1. Shri Bimal Julka — Secretary
2. Shri Jawahar Sircar — CEO:PB
3. Shri J.S. Mathur — Additional Secretary
4. Shri C. Lalrosanga — DG:DD
5. Shri F. Sheheryar — DG:AIR
6. Shri K. Ganesan — DG: DAVP
7. Shri K. Sanjay Murthy — Joint Secretary
8. Shri Mihir Kumar Singh — Joint Secretary
9. Ms. R. Jaya — Joint Secretary

10.	Shri Puneet Kansal	—	Joint Secretary
11.	Shri N.V. Reddy	—	ADG:DAVP
12.	Shri Prakash Magdum	—	Director: NFAI
13.	Ms. Vibha Bhargava	—	Secretary: PCI
14.	Ms. Rolley Mahendra Varma	—	Director
15.	Shri K.S. Rejimon	—	Director
16.	Shri S.C. Panda	—	Member (Persar)

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri A. Manohara	—	Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding 19 pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry from 12th Session of 13th Lok Sabha to 9th Session of 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee reviewed all the pending assurances, as enumerated below:—

SQ. No. 222 dated 06.03.2003 regarding More Powers to Press Council of India (Sl.No. 1 of the Annexure).

SQ. No. 214 dated 07.08.2006 regarding Obscenity and vulgarity in Newspapers (Sl.No. 2 of the Annexure).

USQ. No. 386 dated 27.07.2010 regarding Paid News (Sl.No. 3 of the Annexure).

USQ. No. 214 dated 09.11.2010 regarding Paid News (Sl.No. 5 of the Annexure).

SQ. No. 87 dated 01.03.2011 regarding Empowering the Press Council of India (Sl. No. 7 of the Annexure).

USQ. No. 349 dated 02.08.2011 regarding Paid News (Sl. No. 9 of the Annexure).

USQ. No. 109 dated 22.11.2011 regarding Amendment in PCI Act (Sl. No. 12 of the Annexure).

USQ. No. 3162 dated 13.12.2011 regarding Re-Constitution of PCI (Sl. No. 16 of the Annexure).

SQ. No. 363 dated 20.12.2011 regarding Publication of Foreign News Magazines (Sl. No. 18 of the Annexure).

The Committee were apprised that the proposal for amendment in the Press Council Act, 1978 has been under consideration since 1999. PCI released its report in this regard in July, 2010 *inter-alia* recommending to amend the Press Council Act to bring electronic Media under the jurisdiction of the PCI and to empower it.

Meanwhile the Chairman PCI also wrote to the former Prime Minister and on directions from PMO, the proposal of Chairman PCI was placed before the Group of Ministers on Paid News but the recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) could not be finalized. Thereafter, it was decided that the GoM would not be reconstituted and the Ministry of Law and Justice was requested to examine the issue of amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951 to make incidence of Paid News a perishable electoral malpractice and to fully empower PCI to adjudicate the complaints of Paid News and also to give final judgement in the matter and submit report to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which in turn has stated that the administration of the Press Council Act falls in the ambit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. At present views of the present Chairman PCI were solicited which are awaited. The Committee desired that the process to amendment to PCI Act be expedited.

2. USQ No. 406 dated 27.07.2010 regarding Amendment in Cinematography (Sl. No. 4 of the Annexure).

The Committee were apprised that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in the process of amending the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and an expert Committee headed by Justice Mukul Mudgal retired Chief Justice of High Court of Punjab and Haryana, has been constituted to look into, among other things, issues related to Certification under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 which has submitted its report on 28.09.2013 along with a draft Cinematograph Bill, 2013. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination and would be incorporated into the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill. The Cabinet note would then be circulated prior to the introduction of the Bill in the Parliament. The Committee desired that the whole process be expedited and the assurance on the subject be implementated at the earliest.

3. USQ No. 27 dated 22.02.2011 regarding Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees (Sl. No. 6 of Annexure).

As regard to the above assurance, the Committee were informed that the Ministry has made substantial progress in implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) and that the GoM on Prasar Bharati stands abolished at present, a proposal to request Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha), for deletion/dropping of the Assurance is under submission for approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State. The Committee decided to consider the said request on receipt of the same.

4. SQ No. 164 dated 08.03.2011 regarding Amendment in Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (Sl. No. 8 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was amended in 2011 to implement Digital Addressable System (DAS) in the country. The Ministry had also notified timeline for implementation of DAS in four phases. In order to facilitate implementation of DAS, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has brought out various regulations. TRAI in its Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2010 dated 21st July 2010, as amended from time to time, has

inter-alia provided provisions relating to tariff of TV channels and choice that can be exercised by cable TV consumers for selection of channels/bouquet of channels and Implementation of Report has been sent. The Committee was also informed by the representative of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs that the Implementation Report will be laid on the Table of the House in the next session of Parliament.

5. USQ No. 1591 dated 09.08.2011 regarding DAVP Advertisement Policy (Sl. No. 10 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that the report of Empanelment Advisory Committee for fixation of criteria for empanelment and rate fixation of Pvt. C&S TV channels with DAVP has been approved by this Ministry on 14.5.2012, which was subsequently amended on 5.9.2012 and 12.06.2013. Presently, the proposal regarding rate revision of these channels are under consideration of this Ministry. However, the report of Empanelment Advisory Committee for fixation of criteria for empanelment and rate fixation of Private FM Radio Stations with DAVP, is still under consideration of the Ministry. Once, the same is finalized, the Assurance will be fulfilled.

6. USQ No. 3301 dated 23.08.2011 regarding Mechanism to Regulate TV Content (Sl. No. 11 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that in the year 2007, the Ministry had formulated a draft Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill for ensuring orderly growth of Broadcasting Services. In another exercise a Committee headed by the then Secretary I & B submitted its report in 2008 proposing the draft of "Self Regulation Guidelines for the Broadcasting Sector" to replace the existing Programme and Advertising Code. Concerns had been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed regulator and the mechanism of dealing with the complaints. The Ministry had constituted a Task Force in 2009 headed by the then Secretary, Information and Broadcasting with two representatives each from the Indian Broadcasting Foundation, News Broadcasters Association and Broadcast Editors Association for arriving at a consensus on various related issues. There were no consensus arrived at on the issue of setting up of an independent broadcast regulator. As a result, the Task Force could not submit its report. The Committee were further informed that it is a significant policy decision of the Ministry which requires considerable time to firm up final view in this regard.

7. SQ No. 103 dated 29.11.2011 regarding Functioning of Prasar Bharati (Sl. No. 13 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Prasar Bharati, Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 14.09.2012 has approved financial structuring of Prasar Bharati in order to improve overall financial management of the organization. The long standing issue regarding status of employees working in Prasar Bharati has been settled by amending Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, as per GoM recommendations. The recommendation of the GoM regarding setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) has been

taken up by the Ministry for implementation Draft Rules for creation of PBRB have been finalized. A draft Cabinet Note for creation of posts of Chairperson and Members of PBRB was initially circulated for Inter-Ministerial consultation. Prasar Bharati meanwhile sent a revised proposal for setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment and Services Board (PBRSB) by giving additional mandate for setting norms for induction of media professionals, creative professionals, contractual, etc., consultation on framing of Recruitment Regulations and service conditions of PB employees, cadre review/cadre restructuring, and imposition of penalties on the employees, etc. Prasar Bharati has proposed for enhancement of the levels of the Chairperson and the Members of PBRSB at the levels of Secretary, Addl. Secretary respectively. Prasar Bharati has also proposed for retention of retired employees as Chairperson and Members of PBRSB. Since the levels of Chairperson and Members of PBRB (at AS and JS level respectively) were decided following concurrence of Department of Expenditure (DoE). PB's new proposal is again required to be referred for concurrence of DoE. Department of Personnel and Training had conveyed the instructions of ACC that approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is required for allowing appointment or continuation beyond the normal superannuation age in any Recruitment Rule. Prasar Bharati has requested to sent a firm proposal accordingly. Therefore, it may take some more time to set up PBRSB.

8. USQ No. 1305 dated 29.11.2011 regarding Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill (Sl. No. 14 of Annexure).

As regards to the above assurnace the Committee were informed that in the year 2007, the Ministry had formulated a draft Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill for ensuring orderly growth of Broadcasting Services. In another exercise a Committee headed by the then Secretary I&B submitted its report in 2008 proposing the draft of "Self Regulation Guidelines for the Broadcasting Sector" to replace the existing Programme and Advertising Code. Concerns had been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed regulator and the mechanism of dealing with the complaints. The Ministry had constituted a Task Force in 2009 headed by the then Secretary, Information and Broadcasting with two representatives each from the Indian Broadcasting Foundation, News Broadcasters Association and Broadcast Editors Association for arriving at a consensus on various related issues. There were no consensus arrived at on the issue of setting up of an independent broadcast regulator. As a result, the Task Force could not submit its report.

The Committee were further informed that it is a significant policy decision of the Ministry which requires considerable time to firm up final view in this regard.

9. USQ. No. 1356 dated 29.11.2011 regarding University Status to FTII & SRFTI (Sl.No. 15 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in process to introduce a Bill to declare FTII and SRFTI as institutes of national importance, on which a draft Cabinet Note has been submitted on 05.12.2015 to the Cabinet for approval. Meanwhile, on suggestion of PMO, Ministry of Human

Resource and Development has recently requested the Ministry to consider including these institutes under existing Central University Act. The observations of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been communicated to Ministry of Human Resource and Development. The proposal is under their active consideration.

10. USQ No. 3186 dated 13.12.2011 regarding Vacancies in TV/Radio Stations (Sl.No. 17 of Annexure).

The Committee were informed that out of 125 categories of employees of Prasar Bharati for whom Recruitment Regulations (RRs) are to be made, RRs in respect of 9 categories of employees have been notified. The Government has conveyed approval to Prasar Bharati for notification of RRs of two more categories. The proposals/clarifications in respect of RRs of 74 categories are awaited from Prasar Bharati. RRs for remaining categories are at vairous stage of Inter-Ministerial consultation. Regarding the constitution of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB), the Ministry had circulated for Inter-Ministerial consultation a draft Cabinet Note for creation of posts of Chairman and Members of PBRB. The draft Cabinet Note also contained the Rules for setting up PBRB, prepared after consultation with Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T), Department of Expenditure (DoE) and Ministry of Law and Justice etc. In light of the comments received from the Ministries/Departments consulted, the Ministry has sought firm proposal from Prasar Bharati with its Board approval.

11. USQ No. 4297 dated 20.12.2011 regarding Irregularities in DD Film Section, (Sl.No. of Annexure 19).

As regard to the above assurance it was informed that CBI has completed investigation in RC ACI 2011 A 0002 against Shri B.S. Lalli and Others, no allegations could be substantiated from the criminal point of view during the investigation. CBI has informed that they have filed a closure report in the Court of Special Judge, Patiala House on 27.07.2012. Regarding the action taken against Smt. Aruna Sharma, the then DG Doordarshan, the Ministry has identified 17 issues on the basis of HLC report for which CVO, Prasar Bharati was requested to investigate as regards the objectionable role played by Dr. Aruna Sharma and submit a report. CVO, Prasar Bharati has sent the report on the 17 issues. The report has been examined in the Ministry. The report *inter alia* concluded that allegations made out against Dr. Aruna Sharma, the then DG:DD are *prima facie* not substantiated. The matter was brought before the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Ministry. Hon'ble Minister contituted a High Level Committee comprising of senior Officers of the Ministry to examine the matter and submit the report. The report of Committee of senior officer has been submitted and it is likely to take some time before the report is finalized and sent to CVC for their advice.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (FROM 12TH SESSION OF 13TH LOK SABHA TO 9TH SESSION OF 15TH LOK SABHA)

Sl.No.	SQ/USQ No./dated	Subject
1	2	3
1.	SQ No. 222 06.03.2003 (Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, M.P.)	More Powers to Press Council of India
2.	SQ No. 214 07.08.2006 (Shri Sitaram Singh, M.P.)	Obscenity and vulgarity in Newspapers
3.	USQ No. 386 27.07.2010	Paid News
4.	USQ No. 406 27.07.2010	Amendment in Cinematography Act
5.	USQ No. 214 09.11.2010	Paid News
6.	USQ No. 27 22.02.2011	Grievances of Prasar Bharati Employees
7.	SQ No. 87 01.03.2011 (Shri Porika Naik Balram, M.P.)	Empowering the Press Council of India
8.	SQ No. 164 08.03.2011 (Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, M.P.)	Amendment in Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995
9.	USQ No. 349 02.08.2011	Paid News
10.	USQ No. 1591 09.08.2011	DAVP Advertisement Policy
11.	USQ No. 3301 23.08.2011	Mechanism to Regulate TV Content
12.	USQ No. 109 22.11.2011	Amendment in PCI Act
13.	SQ No. 103 29.11.2011 (Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar, M.P.)	Functioning of Prasar Bharati

1	2	3
14.	USQ No. 1305 29.11.2011	Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill
15.	USQ No. 1356 29.11.2011	University Status to FTII & SRFTI
16.	USQ No. 3162 13.12.2011	Re-Constitution of PCI
17.	USQ No. 3186 13.12.2011	Vacancies in TV/Radio Stations
18.	SQ No. 363 20.12.2011 (Shri Ganesh Singh, M.P.)	Publication of Foreign News Magazines
19.	USQ No. 4297 20.12.2011	Irregularities in DD Film Section

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES

NINTH SITTING

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2015-2016) HELD ON 15 MARCH, 2016 IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 139, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Tuesday, 15 March 2016.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia
6. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
7. Shri A.T. Nana Patil

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri R.S. Kambo	—	*Joint Secretary*
2.	Shri S.C. Chaudhary	—	*Director*
3.	Shri T.S. Rangarajan	—	*Additional Director*
4.	Shri S.L. Singh	—	*Deputy Secretary*

*** *** ***

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four draft Reports:—

(i) Draft 27th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(ii) Draft 28th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (Department of Higher Education).

(iii) Draft 29th Report regading review of pending Asssurances pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

(iv) Draft 30th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of External Affiars.

2. *** *** ***

3. *** *** ***

The Committee then adjourned.

GMGIPMRND—5333/LS(S3)—22.06.2016.

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